

No. 65,475

SATURDAY JANUARY 13 1996



STARTING TODAY

In Weekend, our exclusive serialisation of Elizabeth, Sarah Bradford's biography of the Queen From an acclaimed royal biographer, an intimate and authoritative account of a wife, mother and monarch

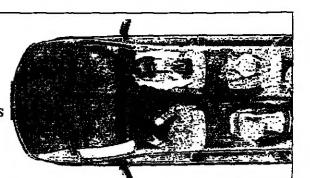


2 Part one: Portrait of a very royal marriage A dominant, difficult

man and the woman with whom he found love, loyalty and independence

Win a Honda Shuttle

Details and today's token in CAR 96, page 10



Ministers shoot down Europe's game bird ruling

POLITICAL REPORTER

MINISTERS are set to defy a new European Union regulation that would wreak havoc on one of Britain's oldest country pursuits — the shooting of game birds such as pheasant and partridge.

Landowners and gamekeepers on estates across the country will breathe a sigh of relief after the Government indicated this week that it will not enforce a Brusseic ban on a drug that prevents wasting diseases in game birds. The unprecedented move marks

the first time that the Government has publicly admitted that it is

willing to ignore a European law, Until now, Britain has held an exemplary record in enforcing EU law more strictly than many of its European allies, and the admission apparently signals a landmark change in the Government's atti-

tude to Brussels legislation.

The move will also be welcomed by many Eurosceptic MPs who have consistently demanded less stringent implementation of unpepular regulations.

in the past, Tory ministers

with dog and shotgun in hand, bagging pheasants and partridges. Fewer do today — Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, and William Wal-degrave, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, are three exceptions and the shooting fraternity can no longer bank on automatic Govern-

ment support for their industry. The banned drug, called Emtryl has been used by most British game breeders for the past 20 years. However, the Government failed to block a European Commission proposal last summer that banned Emtryl after some studies indicated it could cause cancer.

Game breeders say that the ban would be catastrophic for the game shooting business which is worth about £294 million each year and supports 13,000 jobs. In a written Commons answer last October, the Government admitted that the ban could wipe out about ten million

The latest admission came in a little-noticed reply in the Lords this week by Lord Lucas, the Government agriculture spokesman. He was responding to a question tabled by Lord Stockton, the grand-

asked for assurances that no action would be taken against game farmers and game breeders who use Emtryl during the new breed-ing season. Lord Lucas said: "We have no knowledge whatever of game breeders who are using or intend to use Emtryl during this breeding season; but we have no

plans to police the matter either." Lord Pearson, a veteran Tory Euro-sceptic who has been pushing the Government to clarify the issue. said: "It does appear that this is the first time that the Government is prepared to turn a blind eye to European legislation as our European partners do every week. But Peter Dixon, a European

the responsibility of all member states to ensure that EU rules are observed. However, the Government is unlikely to be taken to the European Court of Justice. Government scientists believe that Emtryl is not as dangerous as

the Commission says, and that is is safe in small doses. "We are certainly dealing with the issue as a matter of urgency," a government spokesman said. Commission scientists argued

that Emtryl was dangerous to humans who cut game because it could mutate genetic structures and was mildly carcinogenic.

The Government's announcement effectively gives the green light to hundreds of anxious pheasant and partridge breeders across the country who have been uncertain whether they can use Emtry during the breeding season, which starts at the end of the month.

Mark Sumner-Wilson, head gamekeeper of a commercial estate in Essex, however, gave a warning that Brussels might try to stop the export of game reared on the drug.

Thatcher blast fails to unnerve Major

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR responded yesterday to Baroness Thatchbroadside against his Government by telling her that he would not be budged from the course on which he

jecting her calls for a more right-wing agenda and her assault on One Nation Toryism, he said: "I will not be pushed off what I believe to be

As the Government made a determined effort to play down the impact of the former Prime Minister's attack on its record, Mr Major followed his own advice of last weekend and avoided engaging in a public argument with her.

Even so, in a brief response during a visit to his Huntingdon constituency, the Prime Minister calmly rejected the main planks of Lady Thatcher's onslaught: her derisive dismissal of the One Nation Conservative tradition and her claim that Mr Major's Government had let down the middle classes.

"We have been a One Nation Conservative Party since the beginning of time and we are now," he said. "I have set out what I believe to be right and I shall fight for what I believe to be right."

Mr Major and some other ministers maintained publicly that Lady Thatcher's wideranging critique was aimed at Labour and not at the Government. He suggested that she must have been haffled by some of the things she read in the newspapers yesterday.

However, given the fact that only a small part of the speech was about Labour, that the Tory Left denounced it and the Right applauded it, it was not

ministers or their spin doctors were trying to maintain.

instead, Mr Major, Dr Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, and their colleagues decided that the less said about her speech at the Centre for Policy Studies the better. Mr Major was careful not to inflame the situation and made no direct criticism

Lady Thatcher, he said, was very important part of the Conservative Party. The Conservative Party, as I have been saying for a long time, is a broad church. Every part of that Conservative Party has an input into that policy-When we have that input into our policy, we set out what it is and we live and we win in the Centre Right of politics."

Dismissing her claims that the Tories were failing the middle classes, he added: What you need to deliver prosperity is a secure economy that is going to last, and we have delivered one out of a very difficult recession. Here and abroad we have now delivered a platform of prosperity that we have not seen equalled in this country for two decades and I am going to build on that platform of prosperity and I do not intend

to be pushed off it." Mr Major was irritated but unsurprised by the intervention from Lady Thatcher. Ministers felt that her remarks about One Nation Toryism were a misjudgment. but the most damaging were those about the disappointment of the middle classes and Continued on page 2, col 3

> Simon Jenkins and Roger Scruton, page 20 Letters, page 21



Miss Cousins, flanked by her parents, appeals yesterday to teenagers not to "dance with death" with Ecstasy

Bypass police arrest 34

The Battle of Newbury began in earnest when the police arrested 34 bypass profesters and contractors felled more than 300 trees.

After a three-day stand-off. police responded to pressure from local politicians and used the new Criminal Justice Act to make arrests for aggravated trespass...

War crimes claim

The United Nations war crimes tribunal, which has representatives in Bosnia, is to investigate allegations that up to 8,000 bodies may be buried in mineshafts in northwest Bosnia guarded by Serb

Royal stalker freed by magistrate

By KATE ALDERSON

THE obsessive stalker of the Princess Royal who admitted to police that he had sexual fantasies about her was cleared yesterday of a charge of conduct likely to cause a

breach of the neace.

Liverpool magistrates dismissed the case against Bernard Quinn, 53, from Westonevidence from a psychiatrist and police officers who arrested him in Liverpool on Thursday night. Mr Quinn was arrested after displaying a "determination" to approach the Princess and talk to her,

the court was told. Paul Firth, stipendiary magreasonable tribunal could per haps take the view that an unfortunate scene could have occurred but that would not meet the tests laid down. He said Mr Quinn had no case to

Detective Constable Albert Howard-Murphy saw Mr Quinn in Chapel Street, the first venue in the visit. He asked Mr Quinn why he was in the area. Mr Quinn said he was testing security and that he wanted to ask the Princess

a personal question. DC Howard-Murphy said he was left in no doubt that Mr Quinn wanted to get close to the Princess and was prepared to breach security to do so. After the arrest DC Howard-



Quinn: admitted fantasy

about his obsession. Howard-Murphy said: "He told me that he had entertained sexual fantasies about

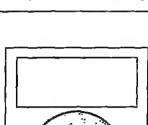
accident after imagining a session of sex with the Princess." Mr Quinn, a father of two and former chief engineer at Rolls-Royce in Bristol, separated from his wife shortly after his accident.

Dr James Higgins, a consul-

tant forensic psychiatrist, said Mr Quinn was a schizophrenic with extensive sexual delusory ideas about the Princess. Mr Quinn made it clear to the doctor that he did not intend to harm to the Princess. □ Dr Klaus Wagner, 37, from Stratford, east London, was charged with obstructing the highway after waving a plac-

ard outside the Harbour Club,

Theisea, where the Princess of



Details and voucher,

Simon Jenkins

on the seven myths

of Thatcherism

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again By RICHARD DUCE

Ecstasy

girl says:

Never

HELEN COUSINS, the teenager who won a fight for life after taking an Eestasy tablet, made a public ap-peal yesterday for other young people to avoid a simi-lar "dance with death".

Miss Cousins, 19, appeared with her parents Janet and Trevor at a press conference at Edith Cavell Hospital in Peterborough to underline the message that drug-taking was not worth the risk.

Mrs Cousins, 51, said: Helen would like to say that it is when problems like this hit home that you realise Eestasy is not worth the dance with death." Miss Cousins was asked if she would consider taking Eesta-

sy once more she whis-She cannot speak above a whisper after a tracheostemy to help her to breathe during two days in intensive care. She slipped into a coma after tak-

on New Year's Eve. yesterday and Miss Cousins a sales assistant, is expected to be allowed home over the weekend.

ing Ecstasy at a nightclub

Take a triend to the theatre for 30p Weekend, page 12

The Magazine, 1015 for young Times readers and Vision, the 7-day TV and radlo guide

The Times is half-orice today to allow more readers to find out why it is Britain's fastestgrowing quality newspaper At 645,303, average daily Sales were up year-on-year enainst e tall in eales lov The Daily Telegraph of 16.057, according to the Audit Bureau of Circulations increased to 1,666.000, up six months compared with a year ago according to the latest National Readership The Daily Telegraph has dropped 5 per cent. Find out how you can get



- Tarana

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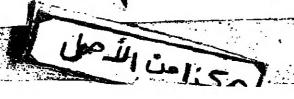
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British Midland. The world's first airline: you can catch using a net.

You can now book and pay for seats on all British Midland flights using the Internet. http://www.iflybritishmidland.com/ (Proof that going up in the world is knowing which buttons to press.)

British Midland



Bed hunt

for pilot

in RAF

jet crash

An RAF fighter pilot who was

critically injured when two

Tornado jets crashed over

Lincolnshire on Wednesday

was turned away from two hospitals before an intensive

care bed could be found, it was

disclosed yesterday. He is

recovering from head injuries

at the Queen's Medical

Both pilots and their naviga-

tors ejected. The injured man

was hurt as he ejected. Dr

Chris Tyler, director of intensive care at Lincoln County

Hospital where the four men

were taken, said the pilot was lucky that another bed could be found so quickly. The

Nottingham hospital, whose dozen intensive care beds

make it one of the largest units in the country, said transfers

from other hospitals were

Drink dropped

The Spilt Drinks Co. makers of Tilt", an alcoholic Caribbe-

an fruit drink, agreed at the High Court to stop marketing

Centre. Nottingham.

Is the Newcastle

Andrew Longmore

on Newcastle v

Simon Wilde in

challenge crumbling?

Britain submits again to Strasbourg human rights judgments

Euro-sceptics denounce court

AND JUL SHERMAN

TORY Euro-sceptics were angered vesterday as the Government agreed for a further five years to give British citizens the right to petition the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg and to submit to its rulings.

Ministers rejected pressure from
Tory rightwingers to withdraw from the court. Britons will continue to have the right to challenge ministers over

alleged human rights abuses. The move coincides with new figures showing a sharp rise in cases going from Britain to the European Commission of Human Rights, the body which acts as the first filter of claims lodged

THE Irish Energy Minister said yesterday that Ireland might go to the European Court of Justice to oppose

plans by Nirex, the nuclear-

waste disposal company, to

build an underground facility on part of the Sellafield site in

Emmet Stagg is believed to be the first minister from a

foreign government to appear

at an English public inquiry.

state-owned Nirex succeeded

in appealing against the refus-

al of planning permission

through the European Court.

Commission last week ex-pressing concern that Nirex's

plan to build a £195 million

rock laboratory would be a

precursor to a nuclear waste

dump, which Ireland views as

a threat to its people through

the possibility of sea pollution.

er Nirex's plans breach Euro-

pean directives on the

environment. The Irish Gov-

ernment views the proposed

laboratory, known as a Rock

Characterisation Facility, as a

Trojan horse that would cost

so much to develop there

would be pressure for approv-

al to be given in future for a

Nirex's application was rejected by Cumbria County Council. The inquiry into the

company's appeal is being

nuclear-waste dump.

The letter questions wheth-

He wrote to the European

might appase it

against governments. Sir Teddy Tay-lor, a leading Euro-sceptic who has consistently questioned the powers of the court, said that he was astonished by the decision and asked why Parliament had not been consulted over it.

Instead of just interpreting the law, the Court of Human Rights is effectively becoming a decision-massivital issues of policy and requiring becoming a decision-maker on various member states to throw away the right to decide these for themselves," he said.

"I think it is astonishing and worrying that the decision was made without giving Parliament the opportunity to decide whether they would wish to go ahead or whether the term should be confined to a shorter opened on applications lodged with the commission by British citizens last year, compared with 946 the year before. The numbers have been swelled by claims over courts martial. the poll tax and from gypsies claiming

the right to park caravans. Britain produced the third highest number of applications, coming after Italy and Turkey. In the same year, 11 cases were referred to the court, which found one or more violations in four cases. Another 16 are pending. Over the past 30 years there have been 80 cases at the court against Britain and breaches were found in 37 of them.

Criticism of the court and pressure from Euro-sceptics to withdraw folkilling of three IRA terrorists in September as unlawful. As a result of the ruling, the Government has paid almost £40,000 to relatives of three IRA members shot dead by the SAS in

A Foreign Office spokesman confirmed that the Government yesterday renewed the right of individuals to petition the court and agreed to accept its rulings as binding. Britain has already accepted a new protocol which will merge the commission and the court into a full-time body to which the Government is permanently

Letters, page 21

representatives. Camden council, whose chief executive Stephen Bundred once toured West Belfast

Tourists to replace

By NICHOLAS WATT

SOUTH Armagh, once the preserve of booded IRA guumen and British soldiers, is marketing itself as one of Northern Ireland's finest tourist destinations. South Armagh Tourism has published its first tourist brochure, which extols the rugged beauty of the

brochure says, "this is a wonderful landscape for walkers and cyclists who can appreciate its beauty at

a leisurely place." Miceal McCoy, of South Armagh Tourism, said the area should take advantage

terrorists

IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

area, once nicknamed ban-

dit country, under the slogan: "A welcome smile, a country mile, stay a while". Tourists anxious about the area's bloody past are reassured that it is perfect for relaxation. With the sun on your face and the wind on your back," the

The holiday brochure

the product and withdraw it from sale. The Coca Cola Company had claimed it would confuse consumers used to its non-alcoholic "Lilt". Footballer guilty

James Kelly, 22, a footballer with Wolverhampton Wan-derers, admitted kicking to death Peter Dunphy. 26, after an argument outside a hotel. Liverpool Crown Court accepted his guilty plea to man-

slaughter and remanded him

on bail until February 5. Legal move

Two QCs are to advise the Law Society on its moves to deny insurance cover to cutprice conveyancers, and on whether they would breach unfair trading provisions. The Master of the Rolls, Sir Thomas Bingham, has said the moves could breach the law.

Sketch man dies

Colin Valdar, who became one of Fleet Street's youngest newspaper editors at the age of 34, has died, aged 77, in a London hospital after a long illness. Mr Valdar became editor of the Sunday Pictorial in 1953 and, six years lines; editor of the Daily Sketch.

Special delivery

Geoff Rackham, 81, has jus received a postcard 55 years after he sent it to his sister-in law from a German PoW camp. The Royal Mail traced him to his home in Rotherham when the card surfaced and they could not find the addressee. She died 30 years ago.

Death riddle

Police in Rome are investigat ing the death of the renowned English art forger Eric Hebborn who was found lying in the street with head injuries in the Trastevere area of the city on Thursday. Mr Hebborn, 61, who lived near Rome, died in hospital.

Irish may Sinn Fein plan for oppose London office foiled Nirex in by vigilant council Europe BY A STAFF REPORTER

TWO Labour MPs and senior councillors have blocked an attempt by Sinn Fein to open offices in central London as the IRA's political wing attempts to set up overseas

The leadership of Labour-controlled Camden Council stopped Sinn Fein renting offices in Holborn because it felt they posed a security risk Mr Stagg, after giving evi-dence in Cumbria yesterday, told a press conference that if to local residents. Glenda Jackson, Labour MP for Hampstead and Highgate, and Frank Dobson, MP for Holborn and St Pancras, told the council that they were opposed to any proposal to rent premises to Sinn Fein because it was "an organis-

> renounce violence". Before the ceasefire, the IRA bombed Camden High Street, Finchley Road and a Conser-vative club in Argyll Square, near Kings Cross station, as

ation that has refused to

Assembly confusion

was plunged into confusion last night when Gerry Adams rejected a Northern Ireland assembly hours after one of his closest colleagues said he would consider joining such a body (Nicholas Watt writes). Mr Adams, the Sinn Fein

president, described Unionist proposals to establish an assembly of up to 90 members as a "non-runner".

examining proposals for an assembly of 45 members, Mr Adams made clear that he would not accept any variation of the Unionist plan, which he described as "a stalling" of the process.

Jackson and Dobson:

objected to proposal

part of its campaign of attacks

A spokesman for Ms Jack-

son said she had also expressed alarm at the

implications for council tax-

payers of a likely increase in

the authority's insurance pre-

miums and the security impli-

cations of having such a

particularly sensitive head-

Sinn Fein, which since the

ceasefire has opened offices in

Washington and Brussels, is

now looking for alternative premises in Loodon. The

offices, the focus for its polit-

ical operations in Britain,

quarters in the borough.

n the capital.

His comments appeared to contradict remarks earlier in the day by Mitchel McLauglin, the chairman of Sinn Fein, who said he would consider joining an elected body if it

The IRA let off more bombs in Camden than any other borough and of course we are 100 per cent, behind the peace

process".

A man was seriously ill yesterday after a paramilitary punishment beating in Northern Ireland. The ZI-year-old was found on the outskirts of Ballynahinch, Co Down, suffering from serious head inju-

with Gerry Adams and Dan-

ny Morrison, was approached several weeks ago. The per-son, who did not initially disclose that he was acting for Sinn Fein, was interested in a

property close to a police station and a Ministry of

Defence building in Holborn.

the back of the building for a

rent of £3,000 a year, with a

discount if repairs were car-

ried out. It was only when

references were provided that

the council became aware that

the building was to be used by

Sinn Fein, according to a

spokesman. Its legal advisers

stressed that any rental should

take into account political considerations, the council's

insurance and public safety.

Richard Arthur, the leader

of the council, said that the

authority's main concern was

for the safety of its residents.

"If the peace process broke down, we could be exposing

people to what could become a

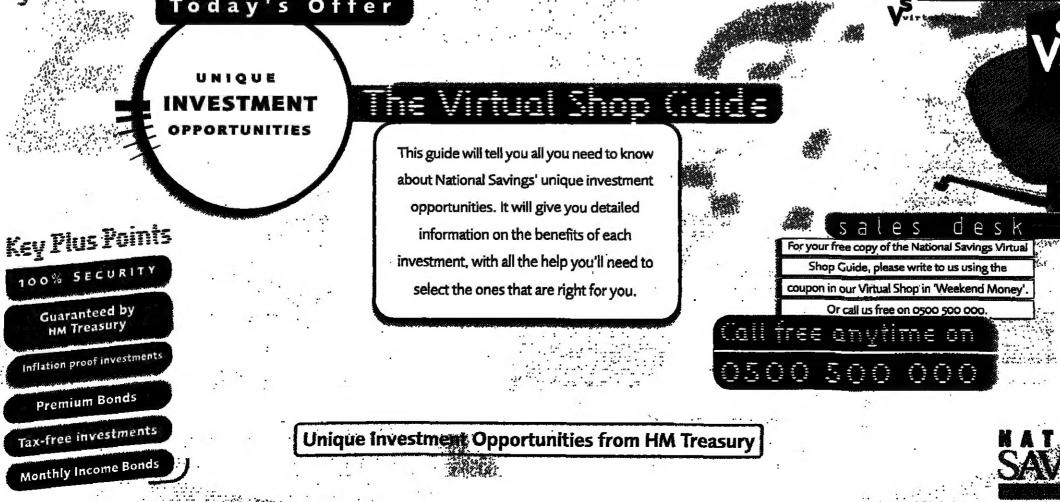
target for anti-IRA groups.

Officials offered an area at

between John Major and Margaret Thatcher. The divisions now run so deep they cannot be bridged. It is a party turning in on itself and truly unfit to govern. She dismissed One Nation Conservatism with contempt. He says that he is and always has been

> Simon Jenkins and Roger Scruton, page 20

South Africa on England's one-day Thatcher blast fails to unnerve Prime Minister internationals **Edward Gorman** BBC Radio 4: "It was another manifestation of how difficult some people find Continued from page I the Government's failure to live up to be capable of delivering that sentence is to represent a profound misunderon Ben Ainsley, Olympic sailing hope its principles. it to give up office." standing of the long-term purpose of In line with the high-level damage Lord Howe of Aberavon responded the Tory Party. I fear it is her latter-day limitation effort, most of yesterday's responses were restrained. Ray Whitney, chairman of the Positive European Group of Tory MPs, said of the with regret rather than fury. He said obsession with that question (Europe) that it was her deep hostility to Europe that risks doing so much damage to that had led to her damaging dismissal of the One Nation tradition. "One her own reputation and even, in the last resort, to the achievements of the a One Nation Conservative." speech: "It was very sad. Watching her on television, she looked old and ill and Nation Tories are No Nation Tories' is Government in which we all worked a glib phrase and it is an expensive one," he told BBC Radio 4's World at John Prescott, Labour's deputy leadit was a pity, I think, that she felt the need to make that speech." He told One. "For any Conservative leader to er, said: "Open warfare has broken out National Savings Today's Offer UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES This guide will tell you all you need to know about National Savings' unique investment opportunities. It will give you detailed



Branson the charmer lifts Moroccans into orbit

FROM ANDREW PIERCE IN MARRAKESH

MARRAKESH was full of hot air yesterday, but none of it was in Richard Branson's balloon. The millionaire adventurer postponed his arrival in Morocco for 72 hours, but that did not stop the build up of publicity and a carnival atmosphere for the start of his round-the-world attempt

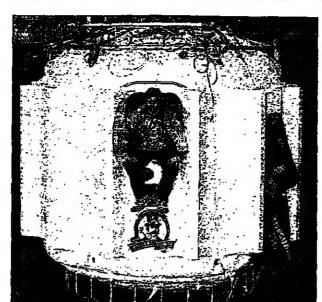
round-the-world attempt.
His choice of Marrakesh as his launch pad has turned him into a folk hero. When the city's first January shower for years fell yesterday, after the North African nation's worst drought this century, some even gave him the credit for

The Branson publicity machine had been working in overdrive. He is the talk of the land. Thousands of ordinary Moroccans are preparing to converge on the city, with its ancient red walls, where women still wear the veil and Muezzin summon the faithful to prayer, to catch a glompist?

the "great white balloonist".

Even the king has become caught up in the round-the-globe race that echoes Jules Verne's fictional Around the World in SO Days, whose hero Phileas Fogg left the Reform Club 120 years ago and took a ballon over the Alps.

Fogg had only a manservant. In Morocco, King Hassan II has mobilised the entire Royal Air Force, the army, and royal gendarmerie



Co-pilot Per Lindstrand at the hatch of Challenger's cramped capsule, waiting to go around the world

to assist the Virgin Global Challenger which is due to start its three-week voyage across three continents, and 72 countries, from a military airfield pert Friday

airfield next Friday.

No expense has been spared. The red carpet has been rolled out for Mr Branson and his co-pilots, Per Lindstrand and Rory McCarthy. All three will receive an invitation to dine with the King at his high-walled

Andre Azoulay, financial and economic counsellor to

Figard: forensic evidence

DNA test

for drivers

in Celine

inquiry

By Stewart Tendler

MORE than 1,000 lorry driv-

ers are to be asked to provide DNA samples for police in-

vestigating the murder of the French hitch-hiker Celine

Detective Chief Superin-

tendent John McCammont,

the West Mercia officer lead-

ing the inquiry, said yesterday

that forensic scientists had

found that Mile Figard, 19,

had sexual intercourse after

her arrival in Britain. He

believed this must have been

rape and police now know her killer's DNA.

to suggest Celine had sexual

intercourse before she was

killed. It is an obvious conclu-

sion that she had sex against

her will. The poor girl is

dead." DNA tests will be carried out on all 1.200 known

owners or drivers of white

Mile Figard was last seen

about to take a lift with the

driver of a white Mercedes at

a service station on the M4 at Chieveley in Berkshire on

Mercedes lorries.

He said: "We have evidence

Figard.

the King, told The Times last night: "His Majesty gave instant approval to the project. He issued Instructions to every government department to cooperate. Everything was finalised in under two weeks. We have shown that even in Morocco we can deliver rapid

and efficient service."

The £2 million high-tech Virgin Challenger will be racing against the Dutch balloonist Henk Brink, 52, who hopes to take off early next week. His Unicef Flyer will be 200ft high when inflated, 25ft

craft. The Moroccans are rooting for Mr Branson. Mr Azoulay said: "We are praying for him to win. Morocco will then share a place in the Guinness Book of Records with the Virgin Challenger." An advance guard of the 150-strong Branson tactical team has arrived in Marrakesh. They chose the city because of climate conditions. Strong warm winds will help the balloon to travel at an altitude of up to 30,000ft. Hundreds of journalists and camera crews have begun to arrive to record the event, which the authorities hope will provide a stimulus to its tourism industry, suffering after the Gulf War.

Mohamed Benaissa, the Moroccan ambassador to Washington and a former minister of culture, said: "In Morocco, when you talk of Britain, you talk of the BBC. This has become the BBC in the air. It is a great adventure which has captured the imagination of ordinary Moroccans. They talk about little else in the cafes of Marrakesh."

Mr Benaissa was talking at the La Mamounia Hotel, where in 1943 Churchill famously told Roosevelt that the city was the loveliest spot in the whole world. The hotel still boasts a Winston Churchill suite with a hat worn by the wartime leader. Beyond are the Atlas mountains which helped to curb the Romans,



A snake charmer joins the carnival, ready for lift-off. "They talk about little else in the cafés of Marrakesh"

Byzantines and the French. Local museums record that diplomatic ties with Britain began 404 years ago when Morocco sent an ambassador to London. Le Matin du Saharu, a leading national paper, compared Branson's expedition with the Queen's state visit in 1981.

In the alleyways of the tourist heart of Marrakesh, thronged with people, groaning donkeys, spluttering motorbikes and every product known to man, they are prepared for the media invasion. Snake charmers on the main square have multiplied to vie for audiences with story tellers, preachers and healers.

ers, preachers and neaters.

Local guides, who normally charge E5 to repel over-zealous tradesmen, were hoping to get away with double their normal daily rate. One guide at

the Djemaa el Fna, the square where executions were staged until the 19th century, was planning to sell helium-filled halloons. Abdullah, 31, said: "We know Mr Branson. We prefer Coca-Cola to his drink, but he is good news. Many tourists will come back."

Local hotels have so far resisted the temptation to cash in on the media circus. The biggest hotels, and Royal Air Maroc, the national airline, have drastically reduced prices in the hope of creating positive spin-offs.

An American tourist, Dick Spring, said: "We're going to delay our departure in the hope of seeing Richard

Branson. I've been coming

here for years. It's the biggest

event I've ever known."

Leading article, page 21

Friend of murdered tourist is raped

By Kathryn Knight

THE companion of a British backpacker murdered in India was raped in a separate attack on the same night in the city of Bangalore, it was disclosed yesterday. Police said they were looking for a rickshaw driver in each case.

were looking for a rickshaw driver in each case.

The body of James Skinner, 25, from Oxfordshire, was found in a ditch in the city on Wednesday night. He had been stabbed and robbed of rupees worth £200. His companion was returning to their hotel in a rickshaw after spending the day alone when she was taken to a remote part of the city and attacked.

of the city and attacked.

She managed to get back to the hotel, walking two miles, then taking a rickshaw. There she was told of her friend's death by police.

death by police.

She was taken to hospital where, it is understood, she is still recovering. A female official from the Deputy High Commission in Madras has travelled to Bangalore to comfort her.

The couple had been travelling together since September. They had backpacked around Nepal and Pakistan before arriving in southern India.

A Foreign Office spokesman in London said the woman "was as well as can be expected under the circumstances". Officials were waiting for the woman to decide whether she wanted to continue her trip or return to Britain. Relatives of the two friends would be given help if they wished to travel to Bangalore.

A spokesman for the police in Bangalore confirmed they were looking for two rickshaw drivers and said all drivers operating between Ilpm and 5am had been told to register with local police.

Wife who killed is put on probation

By Gillian Bowditch

A WOMAN aged 75 who smothered her sick husband with a pillow when he refused to stay in bed was put on probation yesterday.

A judge at Edinburgh High Court said that Catherine Kerr had been suffering from depression and that a jall term would serve no good purpose. The court was told that the

The court was told that the couple, who lived at Erskine, Strathchyde, had been married for 49 years and were a devoted couple. But the last years of their life together had been dogged by ill health and she could not cope.

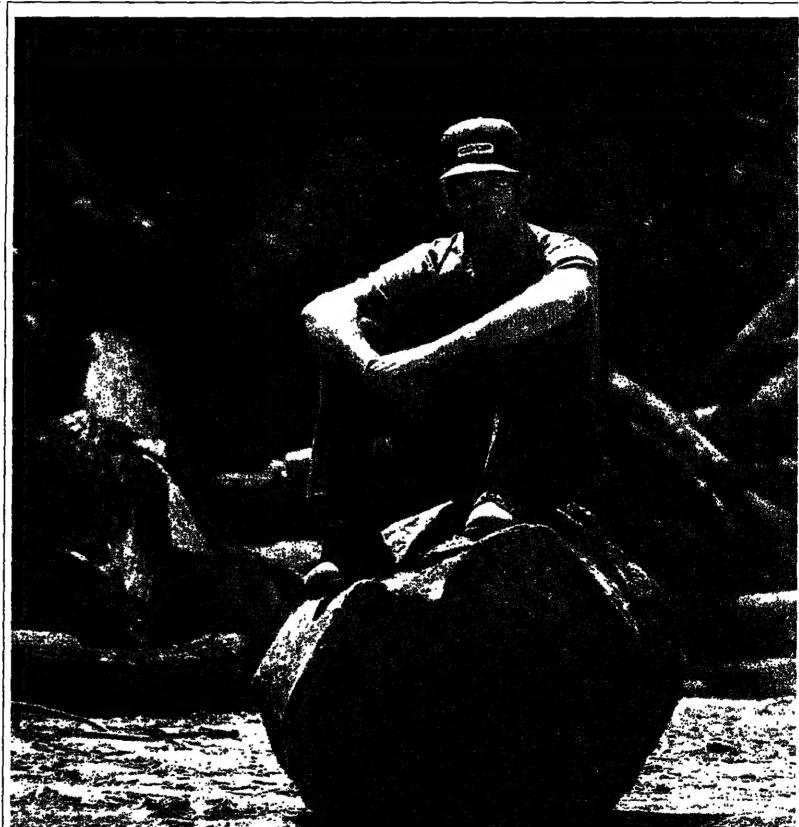
The husband, who was 79, had a severe heart attack in 1993 and suffered from chronic kidney failure. He had been discharged from hospital three weeks before his death but doctors had said that he

was unlikely to live for long.
On the night of the killing he was getting out of bed and needed his wife's help. She told him to get back in and when he refused she put a pillow over his face and suffocated him. She was originally charged with murder but the Crown accepted her plea to culpable homicide because of diminished responsibility. The court was told that she had a

serious depressive illness.

The Lord Justice Clerk, Lord Ross, sentenced her to two years' probation with the condition that she seek psychiatric treatment. He said: "I am satisfied that this is a case where the diminished responsibility justifies me in exercising the maximum leniency."

Ian Kerr, 44, one of the couple's sons, said later: "We were all devastated, but our mother has the full support of everyone and we are hoping she will get over this."



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Farmer unearths account of Victorian sexuality

BY ALAN HAMILTON AND ADAM FRESCO

AN ACCOUNT of a young Victorian woman's sexual relationship has been found hidden in an old oak wardrobe by a Glouesetershire farmer. The 14-page manuscript gives the lie to the notion that the women of the age were models of propriety with no hint of passion stirring beneath their Bible-black shirts.

David Barton, of Little
Duntisbourne, near Cirencester in Gloucestershire, was
attempting to move the wardrobe in his farmhouse when
he found an old accounts
book, detailing the petty cash
of the Boulton family between

1826 and 1832.

But the copperplate entries give way to a spidery, hard-to-

read account in pencil, detailing the 16-year-old's confessions, which are believed to have been written in the 1860s. It begins "Beloved Liz, I wish to confess a sin which weighs heavily on my mind. The sin of fornication." The writer admits that she has "fallen into so loose and degrading a sin", adding "I was 16 years old and knew no more what fornication was than an

infant."

It continues: "I allowed him to touch me twice without any resistance. After a long time I began to tempt him and he attempted to commit fornication." It is signed by Eliza Boulton, who lived at the

Hidden with the documents was a small printed book entitled Practical Observation on Medical Advice, by

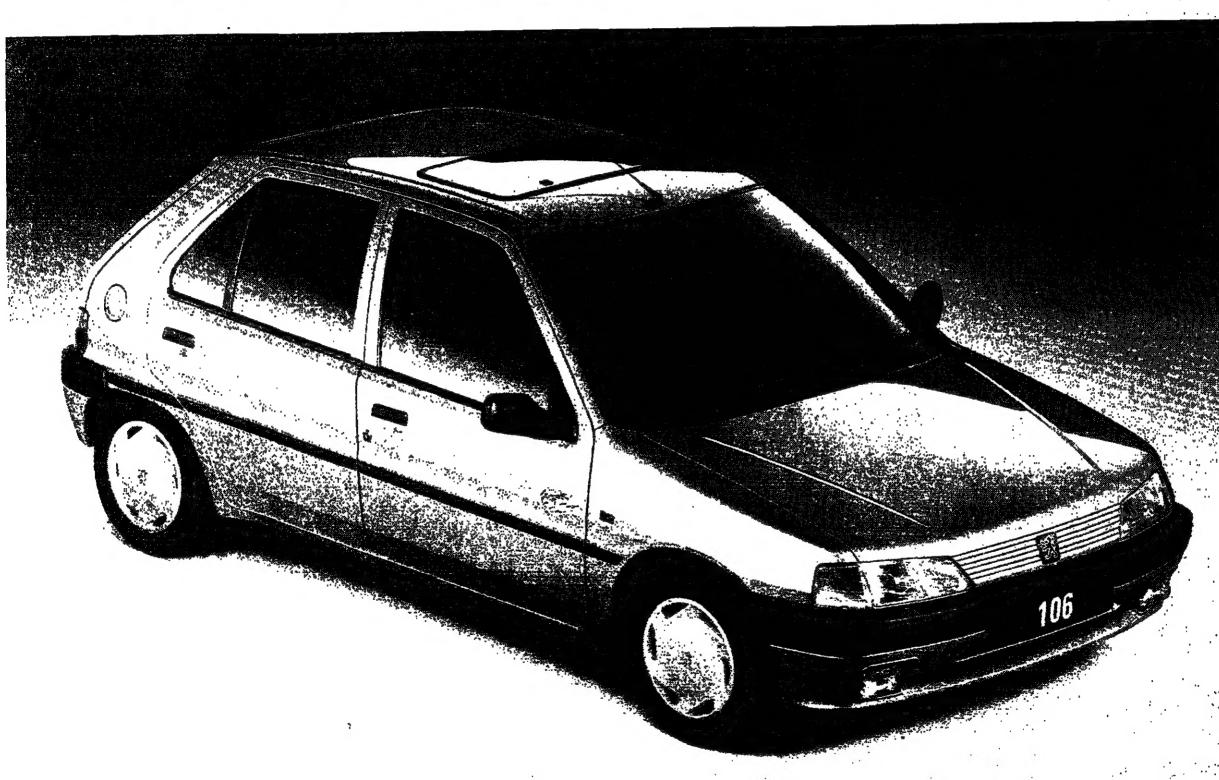
Walter de Roos, MD. which counsels on everything from matrimonial excesses to the menopause and sexually transmitted diseases. The book includes a chapter headed Lustfull Thoughts and Desires.

Mr Barton, who has not yet decided what to do with his find, said: "It is obviously very personal stuff, which the person who put it there did not want to destroy, or they would have burnt it. And they obviously did not want to look at it again, because it was firmly

nailed up.

"I think the interesting thing is the time it was written. It seems she was enjoying herself and Victorian women are not portrayed as enjoying sex. It does not look like she was married to

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Woman recalls posing for drawings of rich girl who would 'thcream and thcream until I am thick'





Joan Baverstock now, left, and as a young girl at the time she posed for Thomas Henry, her uncle, right, illustrator of the William stories

William's foe was no thrinking Violet

BY OUR DIARY STAFF

SHE was everything about the female sex that threatened William. Violet Elizabeth Bott was the scheming golden-curled little horror of the Just William books who "thereamed and thereamed" and deserved as good as she jolly well got from William and the Outlaws.

Yesterday the real Violet Elizabeth or at least the inspiration behind the illustrations - was reminiscing about the days she posed as the sixyear-old minx. Sitting in her Buckinghamshire home underneath a portrait of William by her uncle Thomas Henry, who illustrated the books, Joan Baverstock. 77, admitted

that she was the real Violet. "I certainly used to pose for him." she said. "And in some of the illustrations I can recognise my clothes. I remember on a train journey from Nottingham to London once when

the carriage had steamed up, he drew William for me with his finger on the In Richmal Crompton's stories. Violet Elizabeth is the spoilt member of an aspiring family recently arrived

in William's village — The daughter of Mr Bott (of Bott's Digestive Sauce) who lived at the Hall". William and his gang have no respect for the sauce, believing it to be made of black beetles, but there is no getting away from her wealth, or her ghastly lisp:

Dixons

"Violet Elizabeth's eyes brimmed with tears. Her lip quivered ... 'My fatherth rich," she said. 'I oughter be firtht becauth my fartherth rich'."
The Just William Society's latest

newsletter trumpets her discovery under a banner headline: Introducing the Real Violet Elizabeth. David hutte, of the society, points out that the first Violet Elizabeth story was written in 1924. when Joan Baverstock was six. "Violet Elizabeth was six as well," he says. "So little Joan was the perfect model."

Mrs Baverstock says at that age she was a naughty little madam who hung around young rascals like William. "I was a little rebel in the family and I had curly hair then. Lots

and lots of curls. I could have been rescued from the Outlaws."

But she has never lisped and certainly never threatened to theream and theream and theream until I am thick". She never even met Richmal Crompton, who wrote her speech impediment into the script. The drawings came after the books. you see." she said. "My uncle obviously read the books and then illustrated them, perhaps using me as the model because I fitted his idea of

Earlier this week the Times Diary tracked down Eddie Graham, the 1940s screen Just William, to the sweet counter in the shop he manages in Taplow. Buckinghamshire.

Grammar school ballpoint ban wins top marks

A GRAMMAR school headmistress who has banned ballpoint pens and ordered her pupils to write with fountain pens won widespread support

Susan Glanville, head of Invicta Girls' School in Maid-stone, Kent. said: "I have always attached great importance to clear handwriting. The majority of primary schools in this area have handwriting policies which encourage the children to write well. You cannot suddenly ignore that and think a

hallpoint is good enough," Many parents had ex-pressed their support, she said. "Not one has complained about the extra expense of having to buy a fountain pen. Of course a good fountain pen can last for years and years."

Humphrey Lytteiton, the broadcaster and jazz trumpeter who is president of the Society for Italic Handwriting, said: "People who say ballpoints make you scrawl are absolutely right. It is like trying to do figure-skating on ice wearing roller skates."

Peter Brookes, political car-toonist of The Times and a champion of the fountain pen. said: "I raised cheer to myself when I heard about Mrs Glanville. Ballpoints are in-



Lyttelton: applauded

creasingly sophisticated, but they are still a meagre kind of instrument compared to the fountain pen."

Bill Stoneham, a senior economics master on Mrs Glanville's staff, said: "Many of us work as external examiners, and one of our most frequent complaints is about the illegibility of many of the papers. Most of the staff were using fountain pens before Mrs Glanville came, and of course we all do now."

But not everyone is convinced that compulsory use of the fountain pen is desirable and head teachers' leaders said it would be impossible to country. John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads' Association, said: There are many schools where teachers think themselves lucky if children come to school with any kind of

writing instrument at all." George Turnbull of the Associated Examining Board said: "Handwriting is very important, but if students use a ballpoint well they should be able to write clearly. If they are not disciplined to use a fountain pen properly it will not make their writing any more legible. Fountain pens do have disadvantages. They smudge and blot very easily."

Fountain pens range in price from £1.80 to models costing hundreds of pounds.

Mrs Glanville uses "a very nice Parker". She said: "It was given to me by the pupils at my former school, who knew what value I placed on good clear writing. They did not have to use fountain pens. because I was only the deputy headmistress there."

☐ The ballpoint pen was invented by Laszlo Biro in 1938 and the first 18,000 made were used by British airmen in the war. When they went on sale in 1945 they cost 55 shillings (£2.75), but were outselling fountain pens within four

Teachers pass up chance of headship

By David Charter, education correspondent

FEWER teachers are prepared to shoulder the responsibilities of headship, with some innercity schools left struggling for months to find a suitable candidate.

Smaller schools, which cannot offer top salaries, find it hardest to appoint a new head reacher, a survey published yesterday also disclosed. Church schools, often in small rural communities, were particularly badly hit. One in three Roman Catholic and one in five Church of England schools looking for a head had to advertise more than once

lasi year. The annual review of head teacher vacancies by Oxford Brookes University showed 14 per cent of secondary and 17 per cent of primary headships had to be advertised again. The turnover of secondary school heads was at its highest for six years, with 365 posts falling vacant compared with 324 the year before.

John Howson, author of the report, said the re-advertisement rate for inner London of two posts in every five was by far the worst in the country. He added: "With an ageing teaching force, the problem is unlikely to go away."

Heads' pay starts at £24,453 for the smallest primary school, rising to a maximum £53,559. The National Association of Head Teachers said staff often felt there was no point in shouldering the extra responsibility of headship.



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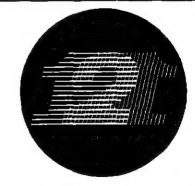
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NHS tests computer-controlled treatment

Laser fires holes in the heart to transform patient's life

LASER GUN TREATMENT

BY JEREMY LAURANCE HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A LASER gun treatment for coronary disease that involves shooting holes in the heart is being introduced to the Nat-ional Health Service. The "heart laser" is being

used to treat patients with heart disease who cannot have coronary bypass surgery. In-stead of grafting new blood vessels on to the heart to replace those that have narrowed or become blocked, the laser is used to punch tiny holes through the heart wall to form new blood vessels.

The Royal Brompton Hospital in west Lundon, the first NHS hospital to acquire the layer, has so far used it on only a few patients. The treatment has transformed the life of Manuel Espana, a retired plumber from west London. according to the hospital.

Mr Espana, 55, was housebound before the operation. unable to climb the stairs to his first-floor flat. Now, a few weeks after surgery, not only can he climb the stairs but he can walk to the shops.

Each laser hole, made by firing the gun between heartbeats, is about one millimetre in diameter, the thickness of a pencil lead. It creates a channel in the heart's wall, allowthe damaged heart muscle. As Laser positioned over ventricle. Computer fires laser while heart is at

when the left ventricle of the

heart - the main pumping

chamber - is full of blood.

The liquid absorbs the laser

beam and prevents it burning

a hole right through the heart.

transmyocardial revasculari-

The treatment, known as

blood seeps through each newly created channel to the surface of the heart, it clots on contact with the air, sealing the end of the hole so that the heart does not leak. Scar tissue

forms within two days. The procedure, which lasts about an hour, involves firing the computer-controlled laser tal, Cambridge. The tema is conducting a trial on NHS patients at the Bupa Cambridge Lea Hospital, which has bought a heart laser, in the first joint research venture between Bupa and the NHS. Although the technique is in

use in America, British specialists were sceptical at first. John Wallwork, consultant cardiothoracic surgeon at Papworth, said: "We thought it was very interesting but mad. The problem is if you make a hole with a drill it causes damage to the tissue which triggers the clotting process, blocking the hole. But the laser causes so little damage that the blood doesn't clot until it reaches the surface of The Royal Brompton is not

the first to treat NHS patients in this way. These techniques are still under evaluation. Everybody hopes there is value in them but until the trial is complete we won't know."

Under NHS rules, hospitals are not supposed to purchase new equipment until its value has been proved in properly controlled trials. The heart laser costs 5700,000.

Mr Wallwork said: "If it works it is likely to be an important advance in the trestment of heart disease. It will give us another brandpatients with chest pain."



Jessica Hodson, 10, with amphibian friends at the campaign launch yesterday

Vanishing pondlife spawns frog hunt

BY NICK NUITALL

A CAMPAIGN to solve the mystery of the nation's disap-pearing frogs was launched yesterday. Progwatch will en-list the skills of up to 60,000 children to monitor spawning times in ponds to discover if global warming is interfering with reproduction.

The scheme, co-ordinated by the Wildlife Trusts, which represents the county wildlife charities, is being backed by Professor David Bellamy and BhS. It comes amid growing worldwide alarm among scientists, conservationists and the public over a dramatic decline in frogs, toads and

In Britain, since 1992, there have been increasing reports of large numbers of frogs found dead in ponds. The animals appear emaciated and others have been found with bleeding mouths, frozen feet and detached limbs.

Professor Bellamy said yes-terday: "Mobilising the acute observational powers of young people all over the country will provide researchers with extremely valuable

Frogwarch survey packs will be available in BhS stores from February 18-25. Children are asked to note the appearance and location of frog spawn and log when and if it







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Lottery purge on Irish border run

By Nicholas Watt, Ireland correspondent

CAMELOT pledged yester-day to crack down on retailers in Northern Ireland who knowingly allowed couriers from the Republic to profit by bringing National Lottery entries over the border. The retailers would have their operating contracts terminated. Louise White. Camelot's

head of public affairs, said. sands of completed entries to outlets over the border every week. Their customers fill out the slips in newsagents in Dublin, Cork and Galway, which display posters saying "Play the UK lottery here".

The punters pay between £1.20 and £1.30 per line — instead of the usual £1 — and the profit is split between the Every Thursday, the couriers pick up the completed entries, which bear the players' names. On Thursday night The Times found a courier from Dublin entering hun-dreds of tickets at the BP

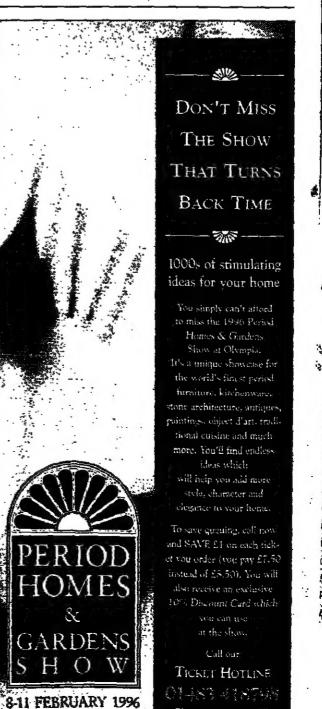
Down, less than 100 yards over the border.

The courier, who refused to give his name, denied any filegality. "I am providing a courier service," he said. People drive from the south to cross the border, so what is the difference?" He estimated he had made £10,000 in the past year. There is a huge ger than the Irish lottery.

Prizes in the Irish lotter have varied from £500,000 to £4.4 million. The duty manager of the service station re-

fused to comment. In Dublin, a newsagent is to appear in court on Monday charged under the 1956 Gaming and Lotteries Act, which bans the import of lottery

Members of the Muslim Sangat Community Centre in meet tomorrow to consider returning a £375,000 National Lottery grant, after some complained that gambling was forbidden by the Koran.



OLYMPIA-LONDON

Roux-trained chef hands protesters victory on a plate

IF AN army marches on its stomach, it is no wonder that the battalion of protesters at the Newbury bypass appears to have had the upper hand

While the security goards hired to mind the site grumble of low morale, which they blame on awful food, the protesters are enjoying the services of a restauranttrained chef who daily bolsters their spirits with freshly

cooked vegetarian delights. Yesterday David Lena-ghan, 28, once a £9,000-a-year commis chef with Albert Roux, woke at 5am to light his crude grate fire, built over four bricks, and to serve gallons of

porridge, fresh fruit, nuts, chocolate and barley drink to his 200 troops. As protesters set off to try to

prevent work on the bypass for a fourth day, they could look forward to a dinner menu of six-vegetable Thai stir-fry in chilli sauce, potato latka, three-bean soup, cooked beetroot and fresh fruit salad for

dessert if they avoided arrest.
The guards, billeted on a farm, take bulk delivery of chicken pieces, beefburgers, bread, cabbages, eggs, tomato ketchup and cheap fizzy drinks. The standard of cooking has become a standing joke among the 200 men and women working for Reliance

Security. Mr Lenaghan, from Chichester, West Sussex, arrived less than a week ago but his culinary reputation has spread quickly through the ten protest camps along the 92mile route. From his woodland kitchen,

equipped with a 12-gallon cauldron dating from the Cri-mean War and nicknamed "Puffing Billy", he takes food orders on a mobile telephone. Drums of his food, created on a budget of £60 a day, are dispatched to other camps.

He turned his back on Roux. where he provided buffets for London business leaders, two years ago. He has not yet told his parents, both Conservatives, about his new life. "I feel I am making a positive contribution to a positive cause. I hated working in London; the pecking order in the kitchen, the egos, the ingratitude. Here, people thank you for cooking for them."

most of the people here or either very strict vegetarians His shoestring budget con-sists mainly of donations and or vegans. That means no eggs conditions are far from ideal. or milk and for a chef they are Getting heat is difficult the main ingredients, so it's a because the wood is often wet and the kitchen gets rained on. The worse thing is definitely the smoke, but we've hopefully

Another 180 security staff have been sent home because of leaking tents. In addition to grumbling about the food,

am not vegetarian myself but

some have complained about lack of showers, poor pay and living quarters covered in

A former guard from Kent told his regional television station, Meridian: "The cold hit every part of your body and there were no drying facilities. The conditions were so bad it was unbelievable and the food

there was not fit for a dog. It was awful." Reliance declined a request to show a reporter the guards' camp.

David Lenaghan in his woodland kitchen: "I feel I am making a positive contribution to a positive cause"

Mr Lenaghan, who plans to stay until the end of the protest, said: "Their diet sounds very stodgy, whereas I try to make sure I give people nutritious food. If the food is good I think it helps morale."

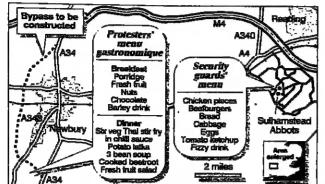
Much of the produce he uses is organically grown and his makeshift kitchen is crammed with shelves of soya beans, wholegrain rice and fruit. It is a far cry from the days when he was trained by the Japa-nese master-chef Hiroshi Hiyashi and won a job with Roux on the recommendation

THE SUNDAY TIMES The price of war



They served their countries during the Gulf War. Now they are the parents of babies with defects. Russell Miller examines the cause of so many physical abnormalities among the children of Gulf veterans

The Sunday Times Magazine tomorrow



£9m bypass starts sell-off

By Jonathan Prynn, transport correspondent

THE privatisation of Britain's trunk roads began in earnest yesterday when the Government signed a E9 million contract with a private consortium to build and operate a bypass in Northumberland.

The two-mile road on the Ab9 near the village of Haltwhistle will be designed, financed, built and run for the next 30 years by Roadlink, a group of six companies, inluding two from Italy. Roadlink will be paid "shad-

ow tolls" by the Government, according to the number of vehicles that use the bypass, although there will be no charge to drivers. As well as the contract to build the bypass, expected to be opened by the end of next year, the deal gives the group responsibility for the management of the entire 52-mile A69 route between Newcastle and Carlisle.

The level of shadow tolls is not being disclosed but it is known that Roadlink will receive a bonus for any safety improvements it makes to the roads and will be charged a levy every time a lane is out of use. Daily traffic on the A69 is forecast to rise from 38,000 vehicles to 57,000 by 2007.

The contract is the first of 13, worth a total of £1 billion, due to be signed under the Government's design, build, finance and operate roads programme, aimed at transferring responsibility for roads to the private sector.



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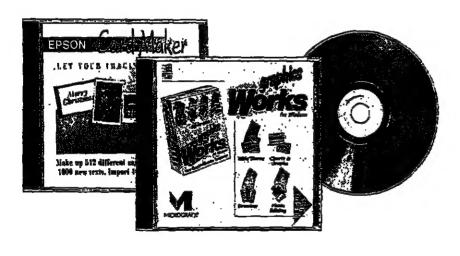
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Children boost numbers at evangelical churches BY RUTH GLEDHILL RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN and young people are helping to boost a growth in evangelical church attendance, according to a survey published last night.

In a survey of more than 1,000 evangelical churches from different denominations, more than half reported a growth in congregation size during the previous 12 months. A third remained static, while 14 per cent lost

The survey shows that 53 per cent of churches grew. In one third of churches, adult attendance remained static. But half the churches reported an increase in child attendance the previous year, and one third said there was a rise in churchgoing among youth. attendance decline.

The survey was published by the Evangelical Alliance. an umbrella group for evanicals, as it celebrated its 150th birthday at the Wembley conference centre last night.

In his address to the 2,400 people at the celebration, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said it was not evangelicals alone who believed in the "great truths" of the finality of what Christ achieved on the Cross, the authority of Scripture and "the fullness of salvation in Him

The strength of evangelicalism. he said, had lain "in its distinctive commitment to hold fast to them and to see them as being of supreme importance". But he warned evangelicals against believing that they alone "have the whole truth about God, and therefore the whole Church of Christ should be like us".

Dr Carey, whose own roots lie in the evangelical wing of the Church of England, said: Evangelicals do not constitute the whole of Christendom, however strong, significant or remain convinced that evan-gelical faith and spirituality



Queues form at Holy Trinity, Brompton, one of the most popular evangelical churches

are gifts to be shared with the whole Church, and that the whole Church benefits when

While the churches surveyed by the alliance were not asked to measure their growth, the results provide further evidence that the decline in churchgoing, which has characterised the postwar years, may at last have bot-tomed out. A recent Church of England report on the Decade of Evangelism, now into its sixth year, also showed that the 30-year decline might have ended, with the number of churches "planted", or founded, exceeding for the first time those closed.

Evangelicals represent a growing proportion of the churchgoing public. A typical success story is that of Holy Trinity in Brompton, west London, British home of the so-called Toronto Blessing. regularly attracts crowds. But church attendance across the spectrum is unless growth takes place also the middle-of-the-road

John Earwicker, church life director of the Evangelical Alliance, said the survey results showed "that the vibrancy we knew existed is more widespread than we had imagined". He continued: "The challenge facing the Church remains enormous, particularly that of attracting children and young people Yet it is promising to see that many hundreds of congrega-

tions bucking the trend."
The Rev Clive Calver, director-general of the alliance, said: "In the past 150 years" evangelicals have achieved far more together than apart.

Persia in the 1850s to speaking with a united voice on issues such as drug abuse and morality in the Nineties." In 1983, when Mr Calver, a Free Church minister, joined the alliance, the organisation had about 1,000 churchgoing members. Today it has 60,000. From representing a few

hundred churches, the ance now represents 5,000. The number of evangelical societies or agencies such as World Vision affiliated to the alliance has grown from 90 to 800 over the same period, and the British arm in London now employs 83 people as opposed to six.

in recent years, separate national alliances have been founded in Northern Ireland. Wales and Scotland and there is also an African-Caribbean alliance in Britain. In total there are now evangelical

According to the Oslo-based research body Lausanne Statistics Task Force, the evangelical movement is growing three times faster than the world's population. In 1992, the ratio of non-Christians to

Element that touches every rebirth

WILLIAM TEMPLE de-scribed Christianity as the most materialistic of all religions. So it is, in the sense that rather than ignoring or the physical realm, the great Christian principle of incarnation makes matter the supreme vehicle and instru-

ment of God. For those blessed with an understanding of the true sacramentality of matter, the whole of Creation is shot through with the glory of God and the most ordinary and mundane things are invested with divine significance. The mysterious transformative process whereby basic physical elements assume an eternal and supernatural character is perhaps most clearly seen in the sacrament of baptism. Churches that follow the new revised three-year lectionary will tomorrow be

in the River Jordan. The element of water is vital in this key moment of His life and ministry when lesus is acknowledged for the first time by God as His Son, it is equally vital for

celebrating Jesus's baptism



Ian Bradley

every baptism in the worldwide church today. The water used for baptism is full of meaning and symbolism, it signifies deansing. More dramatically, it also symbolises drowning. The one being baptised

washed clean from impurities but dying to the rising again. reenacting the central Christian motif of death and resurrection. This aspect of the sacrament may be

more clearly demonstrated in those churches that practise baptism by total immersion but it is equally at the heart of the ceremony where a few drops from the font are sprinkled on the candidate's

potent and highly charged

images in Christian symbolism. Jesus memorably describes Himself as the water of life. The Book of Revelation speaks of the

flowing from the throne of reminded us of a truth long known in other parts of the world - that water is one of the most precious of all the Earth's resources. The psalmists and

Israel

praised God as the one who led His people through the desert and parched ground to the "land which drinks water by the rain of Heaven". The Lord was worshipped as the bringer of rain to the thirsty and as well as the saviour of His people. It is striking how many of the great theopha-

cient

springs. This theme is con-tinued in the New Testament when Jesus reveals His true woman at the well.

Other religious, of course, have held water to be sacred. The Celts venerated springs and running water, a pracbecame Christian. Taoists regard water as exemplify-ing the highest good because it sticks close to the ground and is content to occupy the lowly places that humans disdain. There is perhaps something of the same sense of the river as a place of humility in Jesus's insistence on being baptised in the Jordan.

baptism also Jesus's points to the deep sacra-mentality of all matter. It is a gift from God that reflects His glory and is charged with spiritual significance.

🗆 Ian Bradley is a minister in the Church of Scotland and lecturer in the Depart-ment of Divinity at Aberdeen University.

Cathedral's image cuts heating bill

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THE draughty corners of Durham Cathedral have helped to bring about a scheme that could save householders hundreds of pounds on heating bills.

A helicopter equipped with cameras developed by the Nasa space agency flew over the 900-year-old cathedral to produce a thermal image of the building that showed the areas of heat loss. Similar surveys are now being carried out over houses in the North East to identify where insulation needs to be improved. The information could help residents to cut their heating bills by a quarter.

Cathedral staff calculate that they can save £25,000 a year by insulating the areas highlighted by the images and by fitting a new boiler. John Williams, the cathedral's subreceiver, said: "Before central heating, the cathedral was heated in a very basic manner. possibly by a number of stoves. I imagine people would bring along an extra coat.

The thermal images have highlighted where the heat is escaping and helped us prioritise our plans for better insulation. As well as saving money it also means we are saving energy."

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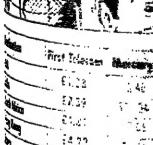
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Last stretch for rubber stars who miss Mrs Thatcher

By Alexandra Frean MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

POLITICIANS, royals and showbusiness celebrities are bracing themselves for a final savaging from the latex puppets of Spitting Image, the longest-running satirical tele-

A host of newcomers is joining the cast of 800 pup-pets for the final series, which starts tomorrow

Labour's spin-doctor Peter Mandelson will be depicted as a hissing snake, wound around the torso of Tony Blair, Camilla Parker Bowles will be shown in the same hed as the Prince and Prin-cess of Wales; Prince Charles will meet OJ Simpson in a bar and tell him how much he admires his work.

New faces also include the American film director Quentin Tarantino and the Gailagher brothers from the pop group Oasis.

Mr Mandelson said he was flattered to have made it on to Spitting Image. "I'm nobody's puppet ... The Tories are always complaining about my alleged qualities



The Prince of Wales in bed with his wife and Camilla Parker Bowles, and a snake-like Peter Mandelson with Tony Blair. Sketches will be more extreme, says the producer

and now they can get an-noyed by the rubber version of me too," he said.

demise 12 years later has sparked a debate about whether television satire can The series, widely imitated thrive at a time when politicians from all sides are around the world, began in converging on the centre and

where there is a conspicuous lack of inspirational, tub-thumping leadership.

years ago, the Independent Television Commission commented that "the originality Audiences have fallen and wit of Spitting Image gradually from 15 million in Giles Pilbrow, the show's the 1980s to 6.5 million. Two

producer, said: "There was a difficult time, when the late John Smith was leader of the Labour Party, with Major and Clinton in power. They

were not as easy to lampoon

Now he thinks there is more of interest. "The Labour Party is a complete joy because there is now a public percepabout. On the Government side things seem to be gelling too. Michael Heseltine is still a dream to do and we are going to portray Michael Portillo, now Defence Secretary, as a South American

He wants Spitting Image to go out "with a bang". As this series is being transmitted in the unusually late slot of 11.15pm, he was able to take even more liberties than usual. "The sketches will be much more extreme. There will not be any rudeness at the expense of humour, but as this is the last series we decided to up the level of satire, he said.

Mr Pilbrow's great regret is that the programme will not survive long enough to see a Labour government. "We were born under Thatcher and will die under Major. It is a tragedy."

Roger Law, co-creator of the show, said that the £2,000 puppets would be put up for ction after the series. He expects they will be much sought after by collectors — and by the subjects.

Black trooper to leave Life Guards

By Michael Evans, defence correspondent

THE first black soldier to join the Household Cavalry as a trooper has been discharged from the Army on medical

Trooper Mark Campbell, 28, who became the first black soldier to ride alongside the Queen on state occasions, is to leave after a year serving with the Life Guards. He was viewed by the Army as a standard-bearer for other black recruits to join the Household Cavalry's presti-

gious regiments.

He was the first black soldier to be taken on as a trooper although there are others with the Household Cavalry in the band and maintenance section. However, after developing a seri-



Campbell: claimed he was victim of racism

from an in-growing beard, he found he was unable to wear the metal chin strap of his ceremonial plumed helmet.

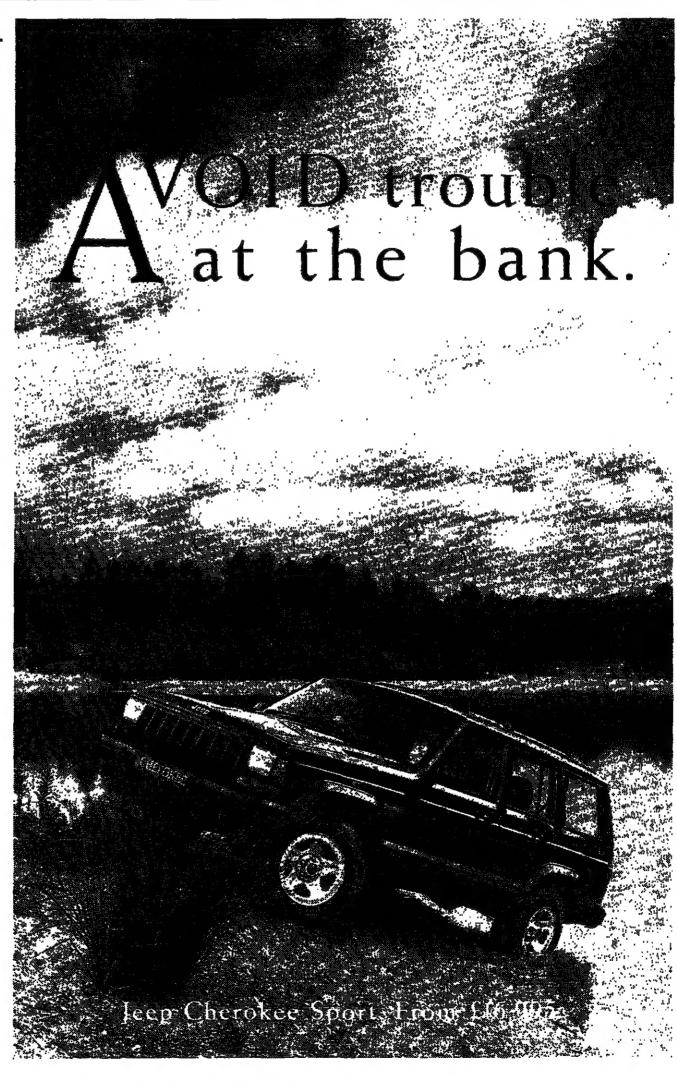
Army sources said it was impossible for him to fulfil his duties. "For weeks he couldn't ride the horse assigned to him and his commanding officer posted him from Knightsbridge to the training section at Windsor," one said.

In August last year, Trooper Campbell made history when he rode beside the Queen, his colonel-in-chief, as part of her 18-strong escort on VJ-Day. After his transfer, he alleged that he faced racial taunts but this was denied by the Army. which emphasised yesterday that his discharge had nothing to do with discrimination.

Trooper Campbell, from Sedgley, near Wolverhampton, asked to be returned to his unit at Knightsbridge barracks but his commanding officer turned him down, because he was still unable to carry out the ceremonial duties. He is to be given a fourweek resettlement course in driving before leaving the Trooper Campbell did well in his training course and t's a shame that he is unable pursue his Army career."

The latest recruitment figures show that only 46 blacks out of a total of 5,740 recruits joined the Army in 1993-94.

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Search for victims of Bosnian Serb massacres as US President meets his troops

War crimes team told of 8,000 bodies in mineshafts

By Michael Evans, defence correspondent

ALLEGATIONS that up to 8,000 bodies may be buried in mineshafts in northwest Bosnia guarded by Serb soldiers have been passed to the United Nations war crimes tribunal for investigation.

The latest claims of a massacre, however, will be impossible to establish until investigators can get proper access to the Serb-held areas.

Witnesses have claimed that Serbs have been emptying mass graves of bodies and dumping them in a disused mine outside the town of Ljubija, between Sanski Most and Prijedor, all Bosnian Serb-occupied locations.

The allegations will be checked by the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague, which has representatives in Bosnia. The tribunal has been aware of past allegations that Serbs have been hiding bodies in mineshafts. Graham Blewitt, deputy prosecutor, said yesterday an earlier war crimes body, disbanded in April 1994.

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reported similar allegations, and the tribunal saw gaining access to the region as one ofits priorities in the light of the Dayton, Ohio, peace agreement.
Mr Blewitt said it was

difficult to stop evidence being destroyed. "Even if that has occurred and the tribunal is able to gather evidence that there has been the destruction of evidence, that in itself is evidence."

He expressed confidence that investigators supported by the Nato-led peace implementation force (Ifor) would soon gain access to suspected mass grave sites on Bosnian Serb territory. He said the sites could be secured by the troops until exhumations began in early spring.

A spokesman for Ifor in Sarajevo said it was not the responsibility of Nato troops to search for mass graves. It would be a matter for the UN war crimes tribunal and also for the Red Cross. Under the



American Major-General William Nash, left, greets Russian Colonel Aleksandr Lentsov after the first Russian plane with troops landed at Tuzla

Dayton agreement which was signed as a treaty in Paris last month, any former warring party in Bosnia suspected of digging a mass grave is required to grant access to "grave registration personnel" from the accusing party to recover the bodies.

Reports yesterday suggested that decomposed bodies had discovered by British

Nato troops who are responsible for patrolling sector south-west, which also covers the Serb-held territory in the north, including Liubija. The 2nd Battalion Light Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Benjamin Barry, is above ground, not buried. based in Liubia

A spokesman for the British headquarters at Gornji Vakuf central Bosnia said the

British units had found no evidence of a mass grave on Serb-held territory. He said about 12 bodies had been discovered in the area, but they had all been killed in "military action" and were

Christophe Girod, a senior official from the International Committee of the Red Cross,

prisoner exchange planned for early next week, said that if bodies were found their identity would be checked, if possible, against the list of people from all the warring factions who were still registered as

The Red Cross does not publish a list of the missing because it is such a politically sensitive issue, although M

Girod admitted it was in the thousands. The Bosnian Government claims that 24,000 Muslims are still missing, including 8,000 from Srebrenica after the enclave in eastern Bosnia fell to the Serbs in July last year. Three thousand are known to have been detained by the Serbs in Srebrenica; the fate of the remaining 5,000 is unknown. Russians join US forces

By MICHAEL EVANS

THE first batch of Russian paratroops landed at Tuzla in northern Bosnia yesterday to join the Americans in the Nato-led peace mission.

Russia is sending two airborne bantalions and logistics units - a small brigade of about 1.600. The 120 Russians will be followed by the rest on trains later this month.

The Russians were welcomed by Major-General William Nash, commander of the American forces in Bosnia. They will be based east of Tuzla, near the town of Brcko in the disputed Posavina

Half of the 60,000-strong Nato-led forces have now arrived. About 8,800 British troops are in Bosnia and another 4,200 will be deployed by January 18. Today three batteries of British 155mm AS90 self-propelled heavy guns will arrive at Split.

Yesterday Serb leaders suspended a threat to evacuate up to 100,000 Serb families from Sarajevo and burn their homes. They asked Carl Bildt, the UN's civilian head in Bosnia, to appeal to people to stay in their homes. The Serbs had threatened to leave the Bosnian capital after Nato chiefs refused to delay the handover of their districts to



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the worst attack since Nato forces were deployed last Mr Clinton, who left the

from the trials of the budget impasse in Washington. How-ever, he is also meeting Presi-

dent Izetbegovic of Bosnia and President Tudjman of Croatia

to lend his diplomatic weight

to the terms of the peace

Already there are signs that

the Nato mission is under

pressure, with violence in

Sarajevo and fighting threat-ened between Muslim and

Crost partners in Mostar, One

person was killed and six were

wounded this week when a

rocket-propelled grenade was

fired at a tram in Sarajevo, in

initiative.

an entourage of 100, including White House aides and senior national security advisers, is

Army commanders at Tuzla have pressed Bosnian Serb forces to leave Mount Vis. a hill within easy artillery range of the base, and an armada of Apache helicopters is expected to patrol the area.

An advance party of 45 security personnel has been deployed in Tuzla and others have been sent to Hungary and Zagreb, thought to be the final leg of the journey before the President returns to Wash-

ington on Sunday night.
During his visit to Croatia. Mr Clinton will urge Dr Tudj-man to remain faithful to the Dayton terms for Eastern Slavonia, the last region still held by rebel Serbs after the Croatian offensive last year. A UN protectorate is to oversee the demilitarised zone for two years before Eastern Slavonia is handed back to the authority of Zagreb.

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by

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New York sharpens legal axe for tree vandals

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

A NEW category of crime has been identified in New York premeditated arbicide". To counteract rising tree vandalism, the Mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, yesterday intro-duced stiff penalties for New Yorkers who cut down or

Culprits will face prison sentences of up to a year and fines of \$15,000 (£10,000), Mr Giuliani signed his tree Bill at the urging of his arboreally-inclined Parks Commissioner and in response to a recent

surge in urban tree felling. In the last six months tree abuse has more than doubled, and New York's 500,000 street trees have further dwindled. Three cases highlighted the trend. In the Bay Ridge neighbourhood, 44 trees were destroyed to clear an apartment block's view of the harbour. In Elmhurst three trees were toppled on a whim, while in Astoria a billboard company employee took his axe to two London planes and five honey locust trees which were obscuring an advertising hoarding.

The mayoralty nicknamed the cases "the Butcher of Bay Ridge", "the Elmhurst Execu-tioner" and "the Astoria Arbicide". The Astoria man was this week given 500 hours of community service and was told by Acting Justice James Griffin that he was fortunate to escape a custodial sentence. Future culprits may not be so

In addition to stricter penalties, Mr Giuliani yesterday announced the introduction of a 24-hour, rapid-reaction tree security team. If citizens see anyone chopping down a tree, they are urged to summon help. The Mayor also did some pruning of his own, reducing the bureaucracy for tree planting permission.
"One Stop Tree Shops" will in future case the procedure. Would be planters will simply dial 360 TREE to be dealt with at once.

Parke Spencer, a city spokesman, said: "We are going after people who arbitrarily destroy trees. The beatefits of trees to people are tremendous. They provide clean air, shaile, and help property values."

Hillary Clinton goes on TV to counter claims of wrongdoing

IN WASHINGTON

HILLARY CLINTON last night flatly denied the various allegations that are threatening to engulf her in spate of mounting evidence that supports them.

Interviewed by ABC tele-vision, the embattled First Lady denied ordering the 1993 sacking of the White House travel office or obstructing investigations into the suicide of Vincent Foster, the deputy White House counsel.

She forswore knowledge of fraudulent transactions by Madison Guaranty, the failed Arkansas bank at the heart of the Whitewater affair, for which she did legal work.

Mrs Clinton was even questioned about reports that she had thrown a bible or a lamp at her husband. "I have a pretty good arm," she replied.
"If I'd thrown a lamp at somebody. I think you'd have known about it." She hoped she was not

becoming a liability "because I love my husband and I really believe in what he's doing and I want to help him". She admitted getting "a little distressed", but vowed: "We'll keep ploughing through."
Mrs Clinton's veracity has

become such an issue that even the authorship of her new book on children is being questioned. The White House issued a press release insisting that the book was Mrs Clinton's work and summoned reporters to examine the handwritten manuscript.
However, The Washington

Post noted that the publisher paid \$120,000 (£78.00) to Bar-para Feinman, a teacher of journalism, to elicit Mrs Clinton's thoughts and help to draft the book. She is not credited by name.

Mrs Clinton said she had been concerned about mismanagement in the travel office but insisted she "did not make the decisions" to sack the seven. A memorandum by David Watkins, a former White House aide, sald there would have been "hell to pay" if he had defied her wishes and not sacked them.

Mrs Clinton has said she did "minimal" work for Madi-son, but her billing records show she did 60 hours with two bursts of activity.

One occurred as the bank hatched a crooked property deal, the second as it sought approval from state regulators appointed by Mr Clinton for a



Hillary Clinton talks to Barbara Walters, who interviewed her for an ABC News programme, which was aired yesterday. Mrs Clinton's questions included one on whether she had thrown a lamp or bible at her husband

recapitalisation plan designed to avert bankruptcy, Mrs Clinton said that she was unaware of any fraudulent dealings by

Mrs Clinton has also said a Rose Law Firm colleague, Richard Massey, enlisted Madison as a client and did most of the work. In Senate testimony Mr Massey cast

doubt on that account. She was asked about telephone logs showing calls be-tween her and a New York friend after Foster's suicide. Mrs Clinton's chief of staff and two other White House

aides searched Foster's office, files were removed, and investigators were barred from searching the room.

"There were no documents taken out of Vincent Foster's office on the night he died, and I didn't direct anyone to interfere in any investigation." Mrs Clinton said. We were grieving and some of those conversations consisted of us sobbing on the phone."

Capital closes: Blizzards forced the Government to shut down again yesterday when

Novel mirrors life at White House

By Martin Fletcher

HILLARY CLINTON has just published a tremendously worthy book on children. but the real talk of the White House is of a scurrilously irreverent new roman à clef by an anonymous writer with intimate knowledge of the Clintons and their habits.

Primary Colours is a thinly disguised account of Mr Clin-ton's 1992 presidential cam-paign that has half Washington trying to guess the author's identity a month before publication. Those who have read the proofs profess astonishment at the accuracy of the details and how closely the book captures the characters of the players.

The Clinton analogue is Jack Stanton, a Southern Governor with an eye for pretty women, a passion for

policies and an amazing ability to empathise with voters. His wife, Susan, is smart, cold and a ruthless commander. When she gets agitated her husband comes up behind her and puts his hands on her shoulders to calm her, which is what Mr Clinton does,

The novel is about a campaign adviser, a black version of George Stephanopoulos, who is troubled by the candidate's tactics and sleeps with Mandy Grunwald, alias Daisy Green, the campaign's media adviser. Matthew Cooper, of The New Republic magazine, insists that is fiction, because he is dating Ms Grunwald. The only real clue is the dedication: spouse, living proof that flamboyance and discretion are not mutually exclusive."



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Fury as eight Americans are picked to shoot one animal each in state cull

Indians file court case in crusade to protect the buffalo

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN INDIANS have gone to court to try to stop a buffalo hunt this weekend in New Mexico. The action illusmates the successful return of the buffalo from near-extinction and the enduring appeal to American sportsmen of the brooding, rip-snorting Bison

The planned hunt is a small cull of the state's official herd of buffalo which grazes on government land. A mere eight beasts, all elderly bulls, have been selected for the chop. But to Indians the slaughter is an insult to a symbol of their culture. In affidavits presented to a district court in Santa Fe. the Inter-Tribal Buffalo Co-operative accused the state of New Mexico of violating the Nat-ional Environmental Protection Act and of failing to treat buffalo with respect.

There is certainly an element of circus in the proceedings. Eight local men have been selected by lucky draw to shoot dead one buffalo each.

tion will not call for great skill, However, the stuffed head of a trophy and can do wonders for baccy store.

The buffalo was hunted to

near oblivion in the 1800s. From a high point of 60 1,000 buffalo in existence in North America by 1889. To-day, after extensive conservation, about 160,000 exist in the United States and Canada.

State officials say the culling

is a scientific measure which will eventually strengthen the herd. By killing the old buils they will lower the ratio of breeding-age buils to cows in the New Mexico herd. Oppo-nents of the hunt have offered to transport the animals to States, where they could roam unmolested on 10 million acres of Indian reservations until the natural end of their lives. Mark Heckert, director



helps indian tribes with bison husbandry, said: "There is simply blow the legs off these animals just because they happen to be standing in the wrong place." Culling and random killing of out-of-bounds buffalo has also been

conducted surreptitiously in than locals. Carlos Tsosie, for the Picuris Pueblo tribe in New Mexico, said: "To Indian people this is a continuation of the genocide the Federal Gov-ernment waged when it killed

Public thinking on buffalo has changed in recent years. in 1987 two East Coast aca-

the short-grass regions of east braska and Kansas be opened to buffalo herds. The Poppers cited the remarkable human demics, Frank and Deborah Popper, were ridiculed when reduction in the beef market,

vening nine years, the Popper theory seems to have started to turn into practice. Government agencies are converting land to buffalo grazing and the Nature Conservancy, a private body, has bought count-

via, France, Italy, Morocco and

Sandi Arabia. It remains widely

Somalia, and Kenya. It is even

exported to Britain, one of the few

Western countries where it has not

been banned, to meet the demand

The high profits make it pointless

for farmers to cultivate anything

else. There seems to be no antidote

of the immigrant communities.

Zurich: Elisabeth Schwarzkopf. 80, the relined soprano, admitted she had applied to join the Nazi Party in 1940. saying it was to enable her to continue performing. Her re-quest had been rejected. (AFP) Space shuffle

Houston: The jets of the space shuttle Endeavour were fired to enable it to dodge a dead US satellite that would have come within a mile of it. Nasa said the shuttle and its crew of six were in no danger. (AP)

Seoul charges

French snub

Bastia, Corsica: Jean-Louis

Debré, the French Interior

Minister, snubbed a truce offer by Corsican nationalists

behind a wave of bomb blasts

over demands for greater au-

tonomy for the island. (AFP)

Nazi reject

Seoul: Chun Doo Hwan, the Korea, and five aides were charged with corruption, the latest move in a legal action that has put two former heads of state in jail. (Reuter)

Bed of nails

Delhi: An Indian, who since 1952 has grown the world's 52 in — on his left hand, wants

Yemeni habit of chewing the qat exacts heavy economic toll

FROM MICHAEL DYNES

FARMERS grow rich on it: con-sumers get high on it, and government revenues are swelled by taxes levied on it. But the national penchant for chewing the leaves of a small bush called gat is distorting the Yemeni economy.

In a country almost the size of France, where only 3 per cent of the

Chewing gat is as much a habit in remen as drinking beer is in Britain. It is easy to grow, it sells for farmers are being lured into abandoning traditional agricultural products for the substantial finan-

cial rewards that gat brings. Qut or Catha edulis foisk contains a natural amphetamine called cathinone. Its bright green leaves are chewed in cuds until they the cheek, making the chewer appear as if he has a billiard ball in

To the uninitiated, gat tastes a bit like privet: extremely bitter and very unpleasant. Yemenis, who have consumed gat for hundreds of years, insist, however, that the magic leaf makes them feel happy and alert. Moreover, it is an alternative to alcohol acceptable in

creasingly serious, however. Yemen imports more than \$600 million (£389 million) in food a year, almost account deficit, due to the scarcity of fertile land, and the excessive

amount given over to gat.

Moreover, the working day stops at about ipm, so that the estimated 90 per cent of the population who include in the habit can haggle over the price in the qut markets, and

But fears that gat was a narcotic proved unfounded. According to a 1980 United Nations report, however, prolonged chewing of gat could lead to dental and gastric diseases, cirrhosis of the liver, loss of sleep, hypertension and cerebral haemorchage. Studies published in the Lancer have also suggested that it

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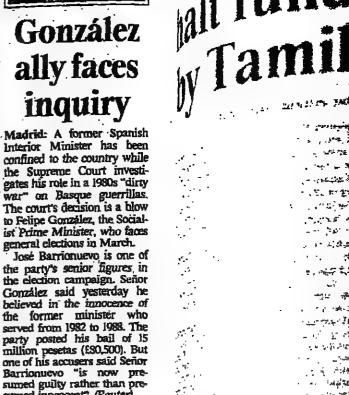
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Britain asked to halt fundraising by Tamil Tigers

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AMID reports that Sri Lanka is massing troops for a new attack on Tamil separatists, Lakshman Kadirgamar, the Foreign Minister, appealed yesterday to Britain to crack down on fund-raising by the Tamil Tigers

Mr Kadirgamar said the Tigers often used intimidation and threats against Tamil families in Sri Lanka to force moderates to support terrorist activity.

Mr Kadirgamar said supporters of the Tigers were raising £250,000 a month in Britain, and more in Canada, Australia. America and other places where there were large communities. In talks on Monday with Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, he will urge the Government to take a tougher line over the use of Britain as a centre for propaganda and subversion by Tamil Tigers

Admitting that Colombo could not match the Tamils'

resources in putting across its views and policies, he said that most governments, including Britain and India, were nevertheless sympathetic to Sri Lanka's efforts to grant autonomy to the Tamil areas. But he saw little chance of a settlement without the elimination of Velupillai Prabhakaran, the Tamil Tigers' commander, whom he likened to the leader of a fanatical cult.

He said the world condemned the use of children as fighters, brainwashed by propaganda and given suicide capsules to swallow if caught. He admitted, however, that until recently Colombo had a poor human rights record, and could not command sympathy until it had passed laws against torture, introduced human rights training for the armed forces, set up a commission to investigate abuses and lifted the state of emergency in most of the country—all of which was now in place.

Tourism, the country's main earner after textiles, had held up well and had recovered after last year's bombing of the oil storage tanks. But Mr Kadirgamar admitted that he was trourism and child prostitution. He said all in the region suffered from this, because of the vast sums that poor families could earn. He saluted recent Western laws to prosecute paedophiles who abused children overseas and hoped to discuss this issue, too, with

Another concern he has made a priority in his 18 months in office is the ill-treatment of Sri Lankans, especially housemaids, in the Middle East. He has set up an inter-governmental task force to see what could be done, and will next month hold talks in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf to see how the rights of Sri Lankan workers there can be better protected.



Hazel Burgess in Sydney yesterday with the skull which is believed to be that of



Paine: founding father of US independence

DNA tests on 'Thomas Paine skull'

Sydney: The University of Queensland is "fingerprinting" a skull which is thought to be that of Thomas Paine, a founding father of American independence, to match its genetic makeup with those claiming to be his descendants.

Hazel Burgess, an anthropologist whose husband. John, says he is a descendant, bought the skull from an antique dealer in 1988. The dealer had bought it in Wales, and claimed it belonged to Paine. (Reuter)

Freezing smog strangles Delhi

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

IT IS not quite Blizzard 96, but Delhi has a winter weather crisis. Smog is choking the city and its ten million people as slum dwellers burn old tyres and scraps to keep warm in temperatures plung-

ing to 5C.

That is cold enough to kill people too poor to protect themselves, and Delhi at night is a city of people huddled round open fires in the street. Flights in and out of the capital are in chaos because visibility is so low. Each day the smog grows worse, filling the hospitals with people complaining of respiratory problems.

The eye-watering smog is worst in the early morning, when visibility is down to 50 yards. There is not a breath of wind to blow it away and it is noon before the air clears a little. Morning rush-hour traffic moves inch by inch through a gloom of swirling smoke in what should be daylight. It is one of the worst periods of smog on record.

Japanese leader calls for fewer American troops

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S new Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, said yesterday that the United States and Japan should work to reduce American military presence in Okinawa, the country's southernmost island, and base for most of the 60,000 or so US troops stationed in Japan.

tioned in Japan.

Mr Hashimoto, who is known for his nationalist views and tough approach to trade negotiations with America, adopted a more concilatory tone at a press conference marking his accession to the premiership; he described the relationship with Washington as "the most important" of Japan's bilateral ties.

"Needless to say, the Japan-US security treaty remains basic to the relationship," he said. Mr Hashimoto made the remarks during his first press conference since becoming

Prime Minister on Thursday.
Public opposition to American military bases has intensified since September, when three servicemen were accused of raping a Japanese schoolgirl. Mr Hashimoto said he hoped the United States would "understand the pain and suffering" of Okinawan citizens. He said he had conveyed his view on reducing

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the American military presence to President Clinton in their first telephone conversation since he took office. The American President is due to visit Japan in April for a meeting that is likely to focus on the issues of trade and security relations.

Mr Hashimoto, in his role as International Trade and Industry Minister in the previous administration, rejected all Washington's demands that Japan should commit itself to specific import targets. With a general election for the lower house of the Diet due this summer, Mr Hashimoto is likely to avoid making any big concessions on trade.

Japan's economic recovery would be the top priority of his administration. Mr Hashimoto said, adding: "The systems which have sustained Japan for the past 50 years now need to be drastically changed ... this year will be an inaugural year for changing Japan's main structures." Although Mr Hashimoto's political credo set out in his book, A Vision of Japan. suggests only modest changes to the trading status quo, he is in favour of greater public spending on the national infrastructure.

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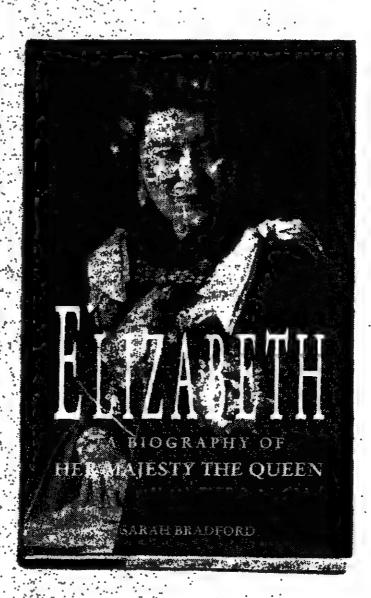
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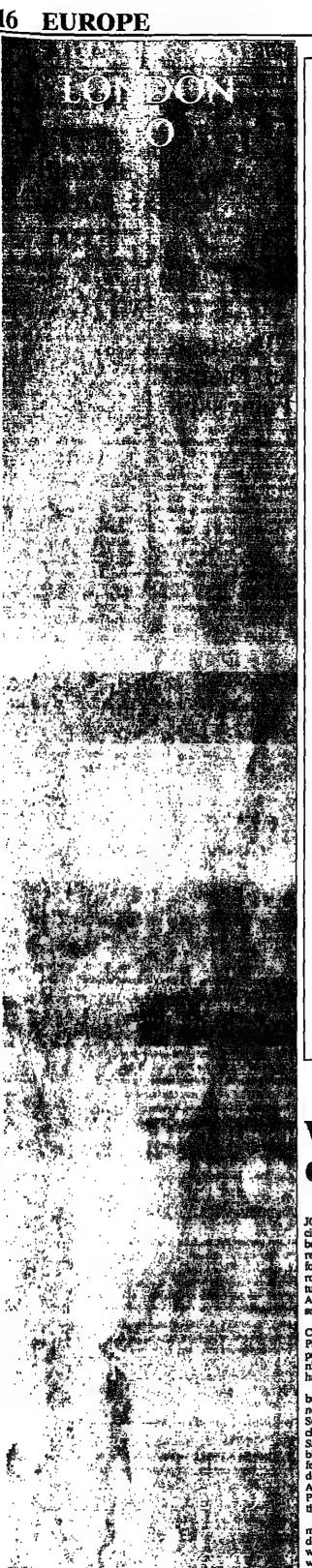
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Death knell for 'KGB Prime Minister' in crime-ridden Poland

Police in gear with car mafia

A FRIEND was checking in for work at a Warsaw hospital when he glanced out of the window and saw a couple of young men stealing his

Two distraught days later, he received a telephone call from the crooks: he was offered the opportunity to buy back his Nissan for \$5,000 (£3,200), a special offer made in the post-Christmas spirit. The money was exchanged for the car key in the centre of the capital in an

The involvement of the whose business is stealing vehicles in Germany and selling them in Ukraine, is unproved but obvious. A distillusioned officer has left the service and, set up a detective agency that guaran-tees a quick, if pricey, return of the missing car.



Jozef Oleksy surrounded by his party members during the vote last year that cleared the way for him to become Prime Minister of Poland

Moscow spies' shadow blackens the Red baron

Prime Minister, lives in a housing estate dubbed the Bay of Red Pigs because of its dense concentration of former Communists enjoying the bourgeois life.

For the most part, they live modestly: Mr Oleksy's flat has two bedrooms; President Kwasniewski, though rather richer than the Prime Minister, has an equally restrained lifestyle. Only Jerzy Urban, the provocative publisher and erstwhile spokesman of the previous martial law regime — flaunts his new wealth. He runs a Jaguar, wears specially expanded Armani Jeans, and inhabits Californian-style mansions.

One of Mr Oleksy's neighbours used to be Volodya Alganov. Built like a burly second-row forward, he was a

Russian Embassy. He was also a KGB of-

came Prime Minister, the Russian used to pop round to his neighbour, knock back vodka, exchange risqué jokes and talk politics. Perhaps the most suspi-cious part of the whole story is the claim that Mr Oleksy,

whose code-name was supposed to have been Olin, played tennis with his KGB contact. Mr Oleksy, it is fair to say, does not have an athletic frame. Asked about the Prime Minister's secret sporting habits, a spokes-woman said he liked "to go for walks". The KGB works

Bowing to convention of tapped telephone tran-

THE Oneen will visit Poland at the end of March and Polish aristocrats are making discreet inquiries about invitations to the gala bash. But it is President Kwasniewski who seems to be the most unsettled. How should a former Communist great the monarch? When the Princess Royal visited Warsaw some years ago, Mr Kwasniewski — invited to a reception at the Royal Castle as a member of the Polish Olympic Committee — could be heard whispering to colleagues: "Should I curtsey?"

WARSAW FILE by ROGER BOYES

in mysterious ways - but would it set up such an improbable rendezvous with the Prime Minister? Mr Alganov (reportedly a colonel in the Russian secret

service) denies that he ran the Prime Minister, "We were just good friends," he told reporters in Moscow recently. For Poles, that was the political death knell for Mr Oleksy. In a few days, the military prosecutor will announce whether there is enough evidence to prosecute the Prime Minister as a KGB agent. Whatever is decided -

scripts and a covertly filmed videotape — Mr Oleksy's career is unlikely to flourish. Nobody is ready to believe you can be "just good friends" with the KGB. The Prime Minister with his brittle humour and blurred features — 25 if he were wearing a stocking

and the prosecutor has a pile

Conspiracy

secret services to do everything possible to hinder Po-land's entry to Nato. entry to Nato. Information about Mr Oleksy was leaked by the Russians to the Polish sec-urity service: a laction of the secret police loyal to former President Walesa fell for the ruse and pushed the evidence into the public domain.

The result ammunition for those in the West who are having doubts about the eastward expansion of the Nato alliance. This is one of the more straightforward explanations. All versions, however labyrinthine, draw

strength from a solid factual observation: the Russian security services (both the successor to the KGB and the GRU military espionage agency) have become very active in Poland and throughout Central Europe

The former KGB resident in Warsaw, General Vitali

Pavlov, has been reministing on Polish radio about the good old days of the early 1980s when he could stroll through the corridors of the Interior Ministry in Warsaw.

In those days, there was not much need to spy on the Poles: eager Communists would bring them the latest titbits. Even so, there was a network of agents tucked tion, working for Aeroflot or

as foreign correspondents.

The fiercest roasting I received from the Polish authorities in the 1980s was when I reported the drunken behaviour of two Soviet correspondents - one of them evidently an agent -- during a sleigh trip. Apparently, the Soviet service felt insulted by

It is difficult to blame the Russians for trying to revive and build up new networks in Poland. First, they face the dilemma: how Communist are the former Communists in Central Europe? Can they still be relied upon to keep Moscow in touch with events?

Second, the Americans are as active as the Russians in the clandestine competition. By supporting the Solidarity underground during the Reagan era, the American services were in a privileged position when the 1989 revolutions threw the Communists out of power.

The other day a British reporter privately asked the Deputy Defence Minister what he made of the accusations of espionage levelled

against Mr Oleksy. He said he was doubtful about the evidence. "But you can never be sure. I have encountered three agents in my time in the army, and they all worked for the CIA.



Urban: now a wealthy Jaguar and Armani man

Socialist is set to win presidency in close Lisbon vote

FROM REUTER IN LISBON

JORGE SAMPAIO, the So-cialist former Mayor of Lisbon, looks set to complete a remarkable electoral double for his party and win tomor-row's presidential vote in Portugal, despite a late surge by Anibal Cavaco Silva, his con-

ervative rival. Although polls show Senhor Cavaco Silva, the former Prime Minister, closing fast, political analysts say that Senhor Sampaio should still

have the edge. "Save a miracle, it will not be enough to win," the weekly news magazine Visão wrote of Senhor Cavaco Silva's late charge. Victory for Senhor Sampaio would be the second big boost for the Socialists in a few months; the party ended a decade in opposition when Antonio Guterres became Prime Minister after winning the October 1 elections.

A Socialist win would also mark the first time since democracy came to Portugal with the 1974 revolution, dictatorship, that the country's voters had chosen a President and Prime Minister from the same party.

This possible concentration of power has been one of the key themes of Senhor Cavaco Silva's campaign. "You cannot put all the weight on the same side or the boat will sink," he told a raily recently.

Although the Portuguese President has a largely ceremonial role, he can veto



legislation and, like the President of crisis-ridden Italy, his power to dissolve parliament can make him a key figure during political upheaval. With the ruling Socialists just short of an overall parlia-

mentary majority, the next President could well be called on to act as political arbiter during the four-year term of the present legislature. Senhor Cavaco Silva, who

governed Portugal for ten years until the elections three months ago, has made much of his experience and interna-tional connections, contrasting them with his opponent's lack of any prolonged period

in government.
With Portugal facing some tough years if it is to get in shape for the European Union's ambitious plans to wed its economies in monetary union, Senhor Cavaco Silva says he is best placed to offer advice and counsel.

Last night the Socialist Gov-

ernment was dealt an embar-rassing blow, two days before the elections to choose a successor to President Soares, when a minister offered to resign over allegations of tax Murteira Nabo, the Public

Works Minister, issued a statement saying that he had offered his resignation to Senhor Guterres after a report in the Independente weekly ac-cused him of avoiding tax on a house purchase.
The minister, who was appointed only two weeks ago, admitted that the report "had

a basis in fact and said he had asked Senhor Guterres to relieve him of his post to avoid "affecting the image of the Government". The newspaper said that Senhor Nabo, a former senior official with Portugal Telecom, had bought a house for 42

million escudos (£181,000) in

1992 but declared its value at

only 33 million escudos. Under Portuguese law, housebuyers should pay tax on the value of any property bought. Tax evasion is believed to be chronic and avoiding duty on house deals is one of the most common forms.

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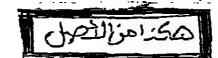
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OPINION Will our diet of top-class theatre suffer as a result of government intolerance?



Brave faces among the dealers at next week's London Contemporary Art Fair may hide a widespread unease

■ VISUAL ART

THE



RISING STAR

Setting the scene: at 26, stage designer Angela Davies already has a memorable style



Spicy from their first note to last: G. Love & Special Sauce wow the

Electric Ballroom

POP

That a satisfying week this has been for those dreary people who subscribe to the "don't put your daughter on the stage. Mrs Worthington" school of dour pragmatism. First, a lurid film called Showgirls confirms all they ever suspected about how unscrupulous producers degrade young actresses. And the fact that Showgirls comes not from some backstreet porn mer-

chant but from mainstream Hollywood only intensifies the prejudice
— so cunningly exploited by Senator Bob Dole last year — that the
core values of showbiz are rotten from top to bottom. Then comes irrefutable evidence

that a thespian life is not only likely to be immoral, but also jolly insecure as well. This week Britain's grandest employer of stage talent, the Royal Opera House, lurched closer to the kind of nemesis usually experienced in the more depressing sort of Greek tragedy. Perhaps the ROH management should hire Dame Diana

Why do we stifle so much talent? Rigg to wail in a black shawl; at least they could claim to be reviving something bleak by Euripides, and pass round a collec-

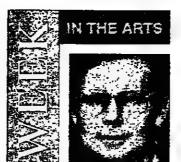
Covert Garden redundancies, it is said, may run to 100, 200 ... or even to the entire Royal Opera and Ballet, depending on how crass you believe the ROH's forwardplanning (planning?) to have been.
At the moment, if I understand the
matter correctly — and if I do, I
may be uniquely gifted — the ROH
is committed to starting a £200 million redevelopment next year with only a fraction of the requisite dosh in the bank and not a clue

about where to put its performers. If this folly were perpetrated in any other field of endeavour they would call it madness, or at least Eurotunnel. "And that's how you manage your flagship arts com-

pany?" a visiting American col-league exclaimed last week. "God help the tugs and trawlers."

Of course, Americans are not the best people to lecture others about the importance of supporting highbrow culture, as I sharply reminded the impertinent fellow. But he had a point. Britain produces more superb performers per head of population than any other country. Abroad, they land the plum roles and are feted for it. Yet at home we make their lives miserable by spectacularly mismanaging, or suppressing, their talents. Indeed, we often appear to endorse an official intolerance of

anybody pursuing an arts career. Consider the battle now going on between Equity, the actors' union, and the Department of Employment over unemployment benefit - or "jobseekers' allow-



RICHARD MORRISON

ance" as we must soon call it, on the grounds that there are no unemployed people in Mr Major's Britain. I am no fan of Equity. One large reason why theatres such as Covent Garden are heading to-

wards disaster is that Equity, with the other entertainment unions, has shackled them to working practices that were old when Garrick was young. Nevertheless, this time the union is right. From October, officials will dir-

ect people who have been out of work for a time to retrain for a new trade. Equity argues that acting work is bound to be patchy, and that attending retraining courses would mean actors forfeiting the chance to audition for parts. The Department of Employment retorts that performers cannot expect to "hold out indefinitely" for work in their profession.

On the surface, this sounds reasonable. Equity has 43,000 members, 80 per cent of whom are currently out of work. That seems like a vast reservoir of stagnant human resource, idling life away,

Art 96 may be a good introduction to British art, but the 'corner-shops' must stay, says Charles Hall

dreaming of the big break that will never come. In fact, most will be drifting in and out of acting work much of the time. Without this depth of talent from which to choose, our stage productions and TV dramas would be far less good.

this is not an argument to deploy on a grey morning in a dole office. But a government minister with an ounce of feeling for the arts should be able to grasp it. Actors are not malingerers. And the one advantage of the closed-shop operated by Equity is that it is not easy for malingerers to pass themselves off as actors. So this is not some outrageous scam waiting to be exposed with a cry of "gotcha" by a rabid politician on

Sympathy, not suspicion, should be the official response to the

resting luvvie. And there is one easy solution to thespian unemployment: reopen some of the theatres that have gone "dark". But that, of course, would be far too expensive for a nation that spent £100 million on one week's lonery tickets.

So, don't put your daughter on the stage, Mrs Worthington? I would never say that. Each time I sec a show at one of our great conservatoires i come away exhilarated by the talent on display. Every year we produce nascent stars who -- given half a chance -will dazzle, move and amuse us to the ends of our days. We must give them that half-chance.

We mustn't demean them with putrid dross like Showgirls. We mustn't disillusion them by concocting ghastly debacles like the Opera House redevelopment, We mustn't humiliate them in dole queues by treating them like antisocial parasites. A great talent can enrich everybody's lives. Why does it get smothered so often?

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

ANGELA DAVIES

Profession: Designer

Age: 26 What has she done? Davies, graduating from Not-tingham Poly, won the Linbury Prize in 1991. She worked in Glasgow to avoid London's assistant designer ladder, then came south and was awarded Time Out's Best Designer trophy in 1994 for her Victorianinspired The Great Highway at the Gate, all ropes and pulleys, and her hes-sian-box desert at the Bush framing Naomi Wallace's In The Heart Of America.



Most recently: Davies converted the Gate into a barn rife with trapdoors for The Ballad Of Wolves, continuing the rough wood style of The Boat Plays with artistic director David Fart.

Her roots: The daughter of a welder. Davies retains a soft Rhondda Valley accent. "At 18," she remembers, "I saw a book on theatre design. I knew that was it. I phoned the RSC the next day, asking them what to do. They showed me round their studios and gave me free tickets."

Coming soon: Davies is currently creating a metal set "like an oven or cooling box" for ATC's touring production of

Dreams: "I've done site-specific productions in a cave, Glasgow's fruit market and an old hospital, and hope to do more. Eventually I'd like to found a co-devising company. I am desperate to try a proscenium arch and perhaps work

Any disasters? "All kinds. On The Great Highway, a huge aiready. It just missed his other. Then I was up all night painting the set, thought I was filling the spray-gun but was pouring a bucket of paint into my lap. I finished the set in my knickers and went home in a towel."

On berself: My work is my vice. I have a passion for it.

KATE BASSETT

Going for a fair overview

lot of people feel that if they walk in off the street into a gallery in Cork Street, they are going to be insulted or ignored, says Guy Peploe of the Scottish Gallery. At a fair such as Art 96, which opens this week at the Business Design Centre in Islington, you can see the managing director, and ask all the silly questions you can think of".

Not that the managing director will mind. Thanks to the recession, the days when gal-leries could afford to be standoffish are long gone — even Cork Street now has an "open weekend", luring in the punt-ers with free drinks and bargain prices.

But if commercial galleries are working harder than ever to reach new audiences, it reflects rather more than greed or desperation. The British art world is as divided as ever over what constitutes good art (or even art at all), but almost everyone feels that their particular version of the One True Tradition is more vigorous than it has been for

years, and that it is British (or British-based) artists who are leading the way.

The only people apparently oblivious of this are the great British public. "We are," as the dealer Karsten Schubert puts it, "the centre of the art world, but not of the art market."

Art 96 is, or ought to be, at the heart of efforts to rectify the situation. The art fair, the only specialist contemporary fair in London, brings together more than 80 dealers, showing at least 10,000 works of art. It is the year's best chance to get an overview of what is going on in British art.

And the organisers can claim some notable coups. As well as attracting the venerable likes of the Fine Art Society, Art 96 has also won the support of the White Cube and Karsten Schubert galleries — two of the dealerships credited with bringing the cutting edge of the British avant-garde to its current international prominence.

But these successes are balanced by absences. This year, for example, there will be no Annely Juda, no Francis Graham-Dixon (defecting after seven years) and, worst of all. no Leslie Waddington.

Waddington's absence must be particularly galling. He is, after all, the country's most prestigious and prosperous dealer. He is also the man who, only two years ago, was sounding the death-knell of the commercial gallery system. Just as galleries in clusters or communities have always fared better than those working in isolation, Waddington reasoned, so art fairs, which can attract the best galleries in the world, showing the best of their stock, must prove more viable still.

And as rents and running costs rose, and the clientele became more and more international, so it made sense for dealers to close their permanent exhibition spaces and commute from one glamorous art fair to another. "A whole system of corner shops is dying," he said, suiting actions to his words by closing two of his five galleries in Cork Street. And now he isn't here.

British art, says Karsten Schubert, "is at the centre of the art world, but not the art market". Art 96 hopes to rectify this in the context of a proposed expansion - Waddington plans to move his operations,

in whole or part, to Paris, a

move which will coincide, he says, with a similar move by the major auction houses. Those defections can only accentuate his principal complaint that London has little to recommend it to the kind of collectors he needs to attract. Our museums and galleries rarely match the calibre of exhibitions routinely staged in Paris and New York, while

contemporary art attracts far

higher rates of VAT here than

it does in competing European

his drift away from London, if it continues, can only rein-force the timidity of British collectors, the bane of dealers of every aesthetic persuasion. Even Gillian Jason, of the Rhodes Jason Gallery, whose support for a figurative and expressionist school fits comfortably with domestic tastes, observes that "a Euro-pean client sees something,

wants it and buys it; the

English always seem to sus-

pect that they might be making fools of themselves". Many dealers still argue that the London art fair could and should take its place in a co-ordinated strategy to put London's galleries back on the international map: "We need the main London dealers - all of them - to be here," Karsten Schubert says, "and we need to tie the fair into the programme at the salerooms. Unfortunately, people find it hard to sustain an effort over several years without seeing any results."

Annely Juda, a long-time supporter of the fair, with an international reputation for her support of the constructive ist tradition of abstraction, is a case in point. She, like many of her fellow absentees, is looking instead to fairs in Basle. Paris, Chicago and Madrid, which attract a larger, more truly international audience and do so, crucially, while charging galleries less for the

privilege of participating.
But if Art 96 is unusually expensive to take part in, it is also unusual in not receiving public funding. This reduces what ought to be an event of international cultural (and financial) significance to a worthy provincial get-together: there are no major foreign dealers at the fair this year.

And it's not just that high costs tempt many dealers to stay away: the financial exposure is such that those who do come have to play safe in what they choose to show. As Guy Peploe says: "Our main programme is one-person shows. But you have to take a group show to a fair to minimise the risks — so we will be taking piles of catalogues and talking non-stop, so that people know it isn't just a rag-bag." Art 96 is an invaluable

introduction to the art world, but it is only that. Which is why, as Karsten Schubert says, the "corner shops" will never die.

● Art 96 is at the Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, London N1, (0171-359 3535), January 17-24

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A tall, lean figure in a brown suit, armed with an ancient electric guitar and harmonica, Love spent most of the time at the Electric Ballroom perched on a stool. An extraordinarily lackadaisical player and singer, he had a peculiar way with a lyric, often half-speaking, POP G. Love &

Special Sauce Electric Ballroom

neo-rap style. In between chopping out sketchy riffs and nearly-formed jazz chords. his hands kept time in the air.

Prescott and Clemens were no less distinctive, and together the three produced a ramshackle, heavily syncopated sound that was strangely appealing. They played surpris-ingly little of their estimable second album Coast To Coast Motel. favouring numbers from their self-titled 1994 de-

tions tended to meander, and while scrupulous attention was paid at all times to the exact state of the groove, the show was rather left to take care of itself.

But their zest for the music was contagious, as was Love's enthusiasm for the subject of the women in his life. In case we hadn't got the message from songs such as Sweet Sugar Mama, he speli out his preferences ("I like em young, long, lean and mean") and dedicated several songs to the 'ladies in the house".

Not a gig that would have found favour with blues purists, but enjoyable because they dared to be different.

DAVID SINCLAIR

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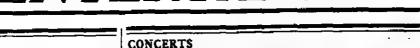
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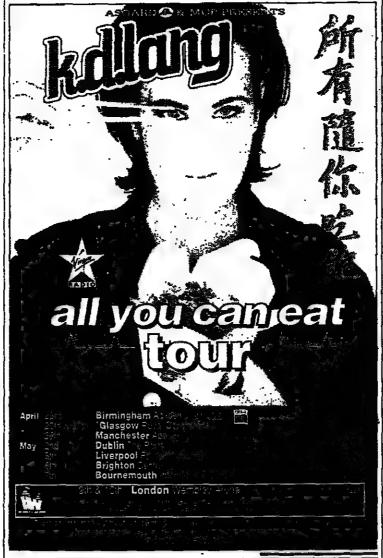
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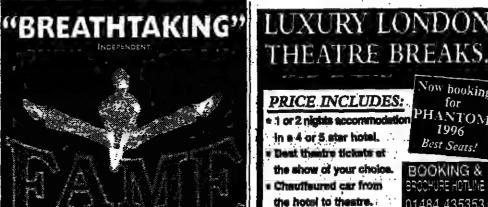
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HERITAGE

Furore in Scotland over a millennium plan to demolish Perth's listed City Hall



BASE NOTES

The smart money is on Nicolas Cage to pick up the Best Actor Oscar for Leaving Las Vegas





BASE NOTES

... while British singer Seal looks set to sweep the Grammy Awards with Kiss for a Rose



ON MONDAY

Cry for the beloved country: Hugh Masekela laments a new cultural malaise in South Africa

Magnus Linklater on the row over plans to demolish a listed landmark in Scotland's fair city of Perth

An eyesore – or a sight for sore eyes?

The Millennium Com-mission has faced some tricky choices in its brief life; but one of the toughest lies ahead of it. Within the next month it will have to decide whether to support a plan that will involve the destruction of a listed building in the heart of a beautiful city, a demolition that has been condemned as 'civic vandalism.'

The project is all the more surprising because it emerges from one of the most cautious and conservative cities in Britain. Perth — traditionally described as "The Fair City" has tended to keep its hands offold buildings, ever since the traumatic day in May, 1599, when John Knox

launched the Scottish Refor-6 This is a mation from the pulpit of St John's Kirk in chance to Perth, and then propel proceeded to destroy most of the Perth into city's other fine churches. But the 21st now the district council has taken century 🤊 a boldly creative decision and an-

nounced plans to pull down its City Hall, a formidable structure built 80 years ago in Victorian neoclassical style, to make way for an open square. At the same the scheme, a new building on a nearby site would be thrown open to architectural competi-

The plan has caused a furore. A petition launched by those in opposition to the scheme has collected more than, 2,000 signatures, and conservationists, who have described the proposals as "civic vandalism", will lobby a council meeting on January 24 that will take the final decision on whether to proceed.

But the more council members have explored the idea, the more they like it, and most of those who have listened to the details have become convinced that, far from being an act of wanton pillage, it could elevate a provincial city on to

Page and Park, the Glasgow architectural consultant, has produced plans under the beguiling title of "Put a new heart in Perth", which would see the City Hall disappearing to create a large and open civic space in front of St John's Kirk a genuinely historic building which has been hidden away ever since the hall was

The firm's senior architect, David Page, has produced drawings for a commercial complex next to the square, known as the "Golden Tower" plan because of the high surmounted it. He has also designed a new City Hall on the so-called Horse Cross site on the other side of the High

Street to replace the old one. But this is just a working model. If the Millenium Commission comes up with the funds, the idea is to open the whole project up to interna-

Harry Robertson, the chief executive of Perth and Kinross District Council, sees it as a "once in a lifetime" opportunity "to provide an attraction of national if not international proportions, and give Perth a

city centre fea ture which it sadly lacks at the moment". Historic Scotland. which would have to give its approval to the demolition of a listed building. cautious interest. The Earl of Perth, who lives near by, and who

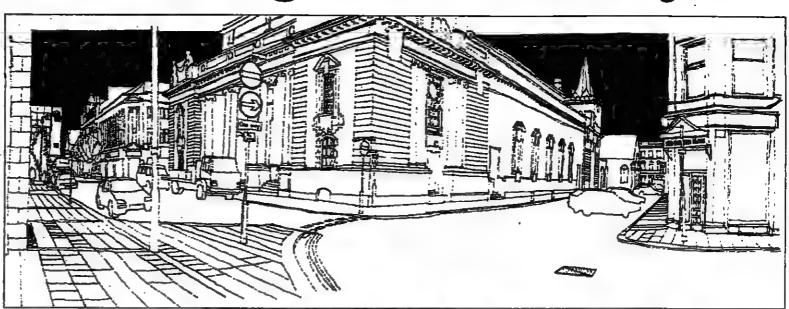
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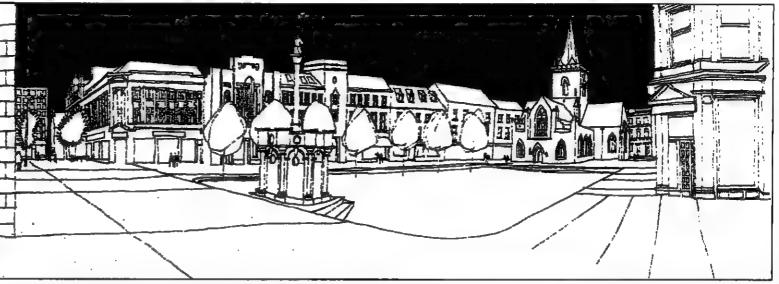
Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects, believes it is a chance "to propel Perth into the 21st century'

But perhaps the most telling point in the plan's favour has been the detailed public consultation carried out by the council, involving group pre-sentations to local people, and the distribution of 28,000 copies of a special supplement detailing the implications of

ithough older residents were dismayed by the prospect of losing a building to which they had sentimental attachments, younger citizens described it variously as unsightly, boring and irrelevant. It is neither large enough for a conference hall, modern enough to cater for exhibitions, nor well enough equipped to stage arts events. Estimates of what it would from El million to £6 million. "Without being elitist," says Ken Dunn, assistant director of architectural services. whenever intelligent people have listened to the arguments, they have been won over." The old hall, he added. "has outlived its reasonable

That does not mean the fight is over. Dennis Gray, a prominent Perth businessman, is waging an energetic campaign to stop the plan. "We cannot





Now you see it, now you see something better? An artist's representation of Perth City Hall as it is now (top), and of how the city might look if the hall were razed and the area given over to a large, open civic space in front of historic St John's Kirk, hidden away ever since the hall was built

John Travolta (Get

afford to lose the City Hall," he says. "It has a special place in our hearts." And it will still be an uphill battle to convince Scotland's naturally cautious conservation bodies.

But the architect David Page is full of admiration for what the city wants to do. "None of these ideas would have happened if it had not been for the people them-selves," he said. "What we attempt to think strategically, creatively and positively, to reorganise the centre of a city along European lines.

"It is what smaller cities like Hamburg, Kassel and Nu-remberg have done. It is very progressive, and very excit-

Whether it is also viable is just one of the issues which the Millennium Commission will have to determine, when it receives Perth's detailed proposals early next month.

Cage is favourite for Oscar THE unlikely front-runner for BASE NOTES

this year's Best Actor Oscar has emerged as Nicolas Cage, who made virtually a clean to win a place in the final five. sweep of American critics' Cage faces tough competition awards for his performance in from Morgan Freeman (Sev-Leaving Las Vegas. British director Mike Figgis's film (released here next Friday) 13) and Sean Penn (Dead won all four too awards -Best Picture, Actor, Actress (Elisabeth Shue) and Director - from the Los Angeles Film Critics Association and has been cited at least once by other major critics organ-

Man Walking). • BRIT nominees Seal, Annie Lennox and P.J. Harvey have additional reason to celebrate. Each has been recognised by the American record industry's equivalent awards, the isations. Cage's arrival on the scene may mean that several Grammies. Seal's Kiss for a Britons who had been as-Rose leads the UK pack, with sumed as automatic choices nominations for Record of the for a nomination — Jonathan Year, Song of the Year and Pryce (Carrington) and Ian Best Male Pop Vocal Perfor-McKellen (Richard III) - fail mance, Lennox and Harvey have two nominations each. while Elton John and Sting

the-road triumphed on last year's UK singles charts. The final tally of 1995 sales finds (Unchained Melody/White Cliffs Of Dover) and No 3 (I Believe/Up on the Roof), with sandwiched between them Artists also featuring in the cumulative Top 10 are, from 4 to 10. Take That (Back For Good), Celine Dion (Think Twice). Michael Jackson

(Earth Song and, at No 8, You

Are Not Alone), Simply Red (Fairground), Everything But

the Girl (Missing) and, finally,

 THE weather has been blamed for the cancellation of the most eagerly awaited theatre event in Glasgow this Theatre Company, from New York, was due to perform Tennessee Williams's Suddenly Last Summer at the Tramway in February, but has pulled out because snow apparently makes it impossible to transport its set from storage in Connecticut.

CONCERTS

Young

year's Park Lane Group concerts by new performers playing new vision of Naomi Graham. She is a member of the eclectic recorder trio, the Weird Sisters, and at times she seems to incarnate all three in one.

Three recorders certainly tends to be the minimum she plays at once. If the work is by Maki Ishii, and called Black Intention, then there is likely to be a huge, swinging tamtam for her to strike as well. But gimmickry plays no part in this piece. Composed for two soprano recorders, one

Park Lane Group Purcell Room

tenor recorder and tam-tam. the music moves from the rapid, high duetting of a peasant dance into a blown and vocalised scream. Then follows a remarkable display of multiphonics and strange reverberations as notes are carried and bent by currents of air before finally disintegrating into specks of sound.

Graham shared her recital with the 28-year-old Greek guitarist Dimitris Dimakopoulos. He spat, skidded and drummed his way through David Bedford's 1969 You asked for it, before Ginastera's 1976 Sonata and Leo Brouwer's of 1990 revealed a carefully controlled palette of

belonged to the 24-year-old Australian pianist Sherelle Eyles. She is a keen champion of the contemporary music of her homeland, and she gave the first London performance of Peter Sculthorpe's Simori. Eyles showed that she has both the technique and the imagination to recreate three quite different native and piamistic styles. Where Sculthorpe exploited the percussive nature of the piano, Miriam of Rocks enjoyed the instrument's luxuriant resonances. and Ross Edwards's Etymalong seemed to send Messiaen on an ornithological expedition deep into the

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ceremony.

Schonberg musical Martin Guerre, which opens in the West End on June 18. Glen came to public attention with his first starring role in the television series The Fear. Evgs Mon-Sat 7.30. Mats Wed & Sat 300 Depardieu starred in the 1981 French film, The Return of 15 XO Sep 96 Martin Guerre, Gere in the WVNDHAMA 0171 389 1736 Hollywood remake Sommersby. Boublil and schools already have two mega-musi-Boublil and Schonberg cals on in London: Les Misérables and Miss Saigon SKYLIGHT

> ADD Big to the seemingly endless spate of stage musicals spawned by films, joining Sunset Boulevard, Kiss of the Spider Woman and Victor/ Victoria, among many others. Adapted from the 1988 comedy that brought Tom Hanks his first Oscar nomination, the show will open on Broadway on April 25. Britain's Mike Ockrent (Crazy for You) directs, with choreography by his wife, Susan Stroman. John Weidman is writing the book; music is by the Oscarwinning team of David Shire and Richard Malthy Jr. Daniel Jenkins will inherit Hanks's role as the New Jersey little-league player who is transformed into a 35-year-

 BRITPOP may have won all the headlines, but middle-of-



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In death, Mitterrand has held up a mirror to France, says Ben Macintyre

he most enduring image from the functal of François Mitterrand will not be an oak coffin draped in the Tricolour. nor a tearful Helmut Kohl in Notre-Dame, nor even the sight of the former President's widow, Danielle, walking slowly through the rainy streets of Jamae at the head of the funeral cortege.

For many, Mitterrand's obsequies will be summed up by the bleak expression on the face of a 21-year-old woman, her chin resting on her mother's shoulder. Throughout Thursday's funeral ceremonies Mazarine Pingeot. Mitterrand's illegitimate daughter. stood alongside her half-brothers, fully recognised for the first time. Her mother, Anne Pingeot, Mitterrand's mistress, was there too, wearing a veil in a symbolic attempt, perhaps, to cling to the last

vestiges of her anonymity.

The decision to bring his "other" family into the limelight was Mitterrand's own. A man used to absolute control, he stage-managed every aspect of his last bow, down to the moment of his death and the colour of the roses on his coffin.

France discovered Mazarine's existence in 1904 when Paris-Match revealed what the chattering classes had known for years. At the end of his life Mitterrand agreed to be photographed with his daughter and his final Christmas was spent with her and her mother in Egypt. By posthumously according his official and unofficial families equal status, the former President held up a strange mirror

For years the French press has followed the unwritten rule that great men have their failings, their lovers and their hidden children. but that these are private matters. not open to discussion let alone The French President's women

moral evaluation - a bourgeois mentality in stark contrast to earlier history when the illegitimate progeny of great men enjoyed both recognition and power. Under Mitterrand, much of the French elite went further, coming to regard all their personal behaviour as embarrassing reality. The French press appeared momentarily equally private, beyond the purview of those who elected them. stunned by Mazarine's appearance at this week's funeral. Le Figuro Corruption flourished.

In a way this complicity is as pernicious as the British media's prurient obsession with adultery. Our hypocrisy is to leer into private lives, as if the public had a monopoly on virtue. The French hypocrisy has been to pretend that monopoly belongs to its public leaders, while futering at their indiscretions in private.

Mitterrand himself was a late and only partial convert to "trans-parency", his change of heart reflecting a dying man's determination to set the record straight. He promised, for example, to make his health an open book, but concealed his cancer throughout his 14 years in power. Yet by bringing Mazarine and her mother before the public eye. Mitterrand has administered a profound but perhaps salutary shock to a culture

blind eye, dressing this up as discretion. The Anglo-Saxon taste for washing dirty linen in public is looked on with horror, and no nation knows better how to use courtesy and protocol to disguise

declared a "coming together" yes-terday, leaving readers to decide whether that referred to Mitterrand's two families or the heads of state crowded into Notre Dame. s it not like Camilla Parker Bowles turning up at Buck-ingham Palace?" a journalist

from the daily Liberation asked me. "Obviously she had to come to the funeral, but in the front row? Mitterrand's detractors will doubtless accuse the old fox of having pulled off another stunt, turning his adultery into a votewinner, even in death. When journalists quizzed the former President on his hidden family, he feigned insouciance. "Et alors?", he asked. So what? But he knew only

cised for writing about the story at all but as some pointed out, Mazarine was increasingly to be seen travelling with the President on international trips, while she and her mother lived in an apartment provided by the State. She had become visible, as he surely intended. By acknowledging his daughter. Mitterrand has estab-lished a precedent that his successor is already following.

When Jacques Chirac's son-in-law committed suicide in 1993, the news was almost completely hushed up. But when the President's unmarried daughter became pregnant last year. Paris-Match came up with a "scoop" that had the fingerprints of the Elysée Palace all over it. Instead of rushing to defend Claud Chirac's privacy, "Et alors?" was the official response.

Mitterrand clearly wanted to pay tribute to a daughter of whom he was deeply proud. Mazarine has made her father appear a little more human, while also helping to shake the culture of silence so long engrained in the French establishment. But at a cost.

Mme Mitterrand has said that

by discussing her husband's affair their marriage was strengthened. It is unchivalrous, but not unreasonable, to doubt that. For all her dignity, walking through Jarnac with the veiled, but now unveiled woman a few pages behind her, must have been a special norture.

Mazarine is reported to be intelligent, shy and terrified of publicity. Her life in the shadows was perhaps a decrit, but a happy one. The face in the photograph shows a lonely young woman mourning her father, but also one who knows she has been plunged into permanent choose and cannot now escape.



Bereaved but recognised: Mitterrand's illegitimate daughter Mazarine Pingeot and her mother

Roger Scruton on the intellectual core of Conservatism

Why Tories need their philosophy

ering rifts within the Conservative Party, has found little in Baroness Thatcher's speech to the Centre for Policy Studies besides a rebuff for the Tory Left, and a contribution to the myth (itself a media creation) of Thatcherism", as a distinctive political philosophy. In fact, Lady be recognised as the traditional philosophy of Conservatism by anyone who had bothered to read the Tory classics. She was also drawing the only possible battlelines for the next election — the only battle-lines that would lead to a

Tory victory.

The problem for those on the Left of the Conservative Party is not that they have lost touch with their principles. Most of them are graduates of the old pragmatist school, which regards principles as dangerous in any case. You can sometimes pretend to have them, but they should never be allowed to distract you from the main task of politics, which is to manage the economy, keep the peace, and ward off the country's enemies. There is much to be said for this approach. The problem is that it makes sense only if the electorate, too, is in a pragmatic frame of mind.

The British people are hoping for a vision: whether reasonably or not, they expect politicians to provide them with a clear picture of where they are going and of why they are going there. The managerial approach to politics therefore makes no cuntact with their

Mr Blair's great achievement is to have presented the Labour Party as indistinguishable from the Tories in those matters which have determined the outcome of recent elections. He has accepted the orgument for privatisation and a market economy; he has accepted the trade union reforms which made Lady Thatcher so popular, he

of education which places quality before equality and individual success before collective failure. Gone are the socialist rhetoric, the egalitarian resentments and the blasphemy against ancestral gods. Attitudes to defence, law and order, the family and even the Welfare State have all been revised in a wrapped in the kind of sentimental "One Nation" rhetoric which draws a veil over the future and induces the feeling that it does not matter where we are going, so long as we all arrive there together.

In these circumstances, the Tory Left has nothing much to offer by way of an election strategy. For it is speaking the same language, and in the same tone of voice, as Tony Blair, Should the Labour Party come to power, Mr Blair's mild and mildewed decencies would be forgotten overnight. But so long as the socialists, trade unionists and class warriors keep quiet, Mr Blair is all that the media know of Labour, and all that they wish to know. And how can the Tory party enter the lists if it agrees in all relevant respects with its only known opponent?

in these circumstances, the Conservative Party must rediscover its philosophy. For it is a philosophy with enduring electoral appeal, and one which Tony Blair could not endorse without open war within his party. Conservatives believe that the functions of society should not be controlled by the State, but should be left to individual initiative. The privatised economy is only one small part of the privatised society - one in which schools. clubs, hospitals, and leisure activities are all independent of the State. At the same time. Conservatives are not "individualists" who see society as nothing more than a mass of self-centred atoms. They believe that the individual is nothing

outside society and that the evil of

of society, and puts the bureaucratic State in place of it.

Conservatives are traditionalists. They see the nation, not as a contract among some arbitrary group of living people, but as a partnership, in Burke's words, between the living, the unborn and the dead. A nation is an historical kinship and self-imposed law. Only in the context of national sovereignty and a legal system immune from outside interference can politics be legitimately conducted. Outside that context, politics is reduced to manipulation, and the respect for law inevitably dwindles.

These ideas seem obvious to me. And they are obvious, too, to Lady Thatcher. But what does the Lab-our Party make of them? Where, for example, does the Labour Party stand on the question of national sovereignty? Is it prepared to endorse the belief that the choice lies between a "fast track" and a "slow track" to a condition which no one has troubled to describe, but in which our nation will no longer exist as an autonomous com-

o the people of this country really wish to be locked in to a situation comparable to that of the Bosnians in the old Yugosiavia, or the Chechens in Russia today? Do they want to be part of a great protectionist empire, able to cast aside our national loyalties and boundaries and impose on us a new population of immigrants. catered for by a multinational socialist bureaucracy? These questions, which are in the forefront of Lady Thatcher's thinking, define the real divisions between Conservatism, as it was and should be. and the Labour Party of Mr Blair.

Roger Scruton is the author of The Meaning of Conservatism.

Lady Thatcher is peddling ideological myths about her own record in office

book: "He is gold, pure gold." The words were Margaret Thatcher's of John Major during the leadership battle in December 1990. Mr Major was the only candidate who would take forward her crusade. He was her anointed, carrier of her mantle.

The lady is clearly for turning. If loyalty was the Tory party's secret virtue, disloyalty has become its public vice. Edward Heath and Harold Macmillan tossed an occasional grenade in Lady Thatcher's path. But neither crafted such savagery as Wednesday night's speech. This was the torture scene from Tosca. Scarpia Thatcher dwelt lovingly on the instruments Howard, Portillo the Rack, Fingernails Lilley and Redwood of the rubber truncheons. We could hear screaming offstage.

The purpose was brutally clear.

Lady Thatcher believes that the Tories are going to lose the next election. She must secure the leadership for one of her own. Mr Major's one-time "bastards" are to be blessed with the Thatcher coupon against whoever might run on the One Nation ticket next.

A Thancher speech is always an event. She talks direct and with a minimum of cliches. Her speechwriters' quotes from Hayek, Milton and Montaigne just about pass muster. Her mischief-making is never dull. Yet a speech also has content. And the content of this one was grotesquely unfair to John Major and a travesty of Thatcherism in government. Lady Thatcher has become the Arthur Scargill of the Right, peddling myths of the party's ideological history. I detected seven in Wednesday's speech.

First myth: that Keith Joseph was a Thatcherite, whatever that may mean. Politicians are judged by what they do when they enter the portals of power, not by what they say in a seminar armchair. Joseph may have worried at the size of government when floating in a Tory think-tank. In power he was a nillar of corporatism. As Housing Minister he was ardent for more high-rise estates. Under Ludy francher he lavishly subsidised British Steel and British Leyland with no move towards privatisation. The nearest he came to he hoped to experiment with youth-

Major on the rack

ers and student loans. Who stopped him? Margaret Thatcher, as she stopped John Moore introducing health vouchers.

Second myth: that One Nation Toryism was left-wing. It was not. It was conjured from the ghost of Disraeli by Tories of Left and Right, including Enoch Powell and Angus Maude. Their desire was to present the Tory party as a national movement, not a party of the middle class. Joseph himself redefined One Nation as "the common ground, the shared instincts and traditions of the British people". I cannot think of a leader who better personified this than Margaret Thatcher. The reason she now derides One Nation appears to be that John Major

recent speech. Third myth: that One Nation had something to do with Europe. in a classic use of guilt by association, Lady That-cher implied that because many on

espoused it in a

the party Left are in favour of European federalism (only a handare), One Nation Toryism would "better be described as No Nation Conservatism". If One Nation could be accused of anything, it was of a narrow chauvinism.

Fourth myth: that on Europe Mr Major has done something that Lady Thatcher would not have done. This is absurd. It was Lady Thatcher who led Britain into the European exchange-rate morass, and Mr Major who led Britain out of it. In her memoirs she indicates that she only joined after being bullied by those tyrannical thugs Lord Howe and Lord Lawson. Poor diddums. Who was in charge? Who signed the Single European Act and accepted qualified majority voting? Mr Major has fought against the federalist line at every

European summit. Like Lady Thatcher, he carried each fight to the point where the only option was treaty renunciation. She never went that far either. Fifth myth: that Mr Major has

not been ideologically true to the Thatcherite programme. I suppose if you say black is white often enough, even grown-ups start believing you. Let us recall four so-called Thatcherite reforms pressed by the Major administration: the privatisation of British Rail, British Coal and the Post Office, and school vouchers. Lady Thatcher in office blocked them all. The record (including her memoirs) shows that she was never an ardent privatiser, at least until the late 1980s. Mr Major has gone where she feared

to tread. Over coal and the Post Office, he stumbled from being over-zealous. If anything he has lacking the pragmatism of his former boss.

Sixth myth: that Lady Thatcher in office was a disciplinarian over public expenditure, while Mr Maor is not. This is untrue. For the first five years of her Government the only reasonable restraint was shown by (mostly Labour) local authorities. Lady Thatcher's head wailed against her hears, but her heart won. She spent recklessly, on defence, the police, health, farmers, housing benefit, mortgage subsidies through tax relief.

On Wednesday she claimed that by the end of the Eighties she had cut public spending's share of the domestic product and public borrowing. She forgot that this was a cyclical outcome of what she admirted elsewhere were her "mistakes of financial management by allowing the economy to overheat". When the recession duly occurred in 199092, spending and borrowing soared. Structural reform of the Welfare State had not been carried out and Mr Major was left to wallow in the mess. He may have been as timid of cuts as was she, but to imply that he is backsliding from the faith is outrageous.

Seventh myth: that the "basic principles of Conservatism which prevailed in the 1980s" were those of limited government and deregu-lation. With the exception of some former state industries, the Eight-ies were years of steady aggrand-isement by Downing Street and the Treasury over the rest of the public sector. Lady Thatcher believed in this. "Never let anyone say I am laisser faire," she said. "Over the years the State has done so much harm that the opportunity to do remedial work is not to be missed." She believed in strong government. She extended Treasury control over local government and nationalised services. Audit and performance monitoring became more detailed. In the health and education services, bureaucracy was rampant.

o profession or organisation in the public sector (which is the same size as in 1979) can say that it is less regulated than was the case when Margaret Thatcher came to power. The three Cabinet ministers singled out for special praise on Wednesday — Messrs Portillo, Lilley and Howard — run the three departments regularly at the top of the Treasury's high spending blacklist. Lady Thatcher may have made British government leaner and possibly more efficient, but she did not limit its constitutional arrogance, the arrogance against which the (armchair) Keith Joseph warned. Her Reformation was Franciscan rather than Lutheran. We know that government is the

hardest of all human endeavours. Its delicate compromises are daily form apart by circumstance. British government is extraordinarily centralised. The punishing burden on a prime minister demands a thick skin and a loyal party. Lady Thatcher should know this. Of all people she should be sensitive to Mr Major's tribulations, of a tired team, a small majority and an electorate yearning for new blood. She is not By tormenting her successor in his hour of trouble she demeans her undoubted greatness.

Cosmetic Ken

KENNETH CLARKE has been freiting about his tooks. The Chancellor, whose regard for his physical appearance has never seemed uppermost in his mind, has a secret ocauty up. And other MPs are following his example. My colleague Matthew Parris

was the first to catch wind of Clarke's vanity. He reports that the truth was uncovered when Clarke and Michael Heseltine were in the

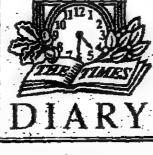


green mom of a TV studio in the Midlands together, waiting to go on air. "Clarke got out a ladies-style make-up compact with a House of Commons insignia, opened up the mirror and began powdering his nose, face and shiny forehead," reports Parris. "Heseltine stared at him in absolute horror. 'Oh.' drawled Clarke, 'I suppose this is the kind of thing everyone would expect you to do. Well, it's me and this is mine. With that, he went on dabbing. Heseltine, I hear, remained speechless."

But the trend among male members is catching on. Mary Spillane, who advises politicians on how to tidy up their images, teaches how to powder away glistening pates and only noses. Twe even had calls to bike them round immediately."

The House of Commons compacts are a pricey £18.25 but are flying off the shelves. They sell very well," says a member of the shop's staff, who refuses to be drawn on other male politicians who have snapped them up.

• News of an aristocratic love match has crossed my desk. Lady



Christopher Thynne's pug. Pandolphin, has fallen for Sir George and Ludy Christie's famous opera-leving black pug Myrtle. The happy couple are said to be engaged after meeting at a pugs tea-party at Glyndebourne. The patter of tiny paws is to be expected.

On the spot

KEEP a weather eye on that fielling old tabloid the Sunday Express this weekend which is already in a legal tussle with The Sunday Times over the slogan "The Sunday Express is the Sunday papers. With the arrival of its new Editor. Sue Douglas, whose shoulder pads wouldn't be out of place in an American football game, the paper relaunched itself last week with a

"World Exclusive" about the maltreatment of Chinese orphans. Not only was there no exclusivity

about the story - other Sundays also carried it - but so determined Was the Sunday Express to impress its readers that it said the report had come from one Alfred Lee in Hong Kong. Mr Lee got no further east than Catlord.

Portside drift

AS BARONESS Thatcher was brandishing her knife on Thursday evening at the Keith Joseph Memorial Lecture, John Major was in jocular form at Downing Street where he hested a party for his private



Charlotte Barker: sell out

secretary, Roderic Lyne, who is leaving to join British Gas. Major stood on his soapbox and

then pointed to a desk in the corner which had belonged to William Pitt the Younger, who became Prime. Minister at the age of 24. "He used to drink a bottle of port after breakfast, another after hunch, and a third after dinner," he ribbed. "But he was PM for 20 years. After only five years, I know how he felt."

Love match?

NOW THAT Dickie Bird has decided to retire from Test cricket, is he ready for a romantic fixture? Dickie, a bachelor, has always maintained that umpiring all over the world has made marriage imposible. But after admitting in a TV interview that he was often lonely, he received three proposals of marriage and dozens of invitations to dates. The junior newspa-pers said that he "bowls the maidens over" and "all the birds love Dickie".

Begging letter

RONNIE Barker had to plead for a ticket to see his daughter, Charlatte, perform in a play. The Bor- ilies in the land to upgrade the pet-



Five star grant millionaire Edmund Vestey with his does

romers, in which she stars, has been sold out since it opened at the Old. Rep in Birmingham in December. In desperation, he wrote to the Birmingham Stage Company which has put on the show. "We had five seats on hold that hadn't been paid for," says the manager. "So we managed to give him those. He really enjoyed the show."

Investment

KILTS are happing in the High-lands over a \$30,000 grant being handed in one of the richest fam-

rol pumps on their country estate at the fishing village of Lochinver in northwest Sutherland. The Vestey family owns the estate and the grant has been described as "astonishing" by Labour's Transport spokesman, Brian Wilson.

Edmund Vestey, 63, a cousin of Lord "Spam" Vestey, runs the 60,000-acre estate where the pumps have to be upgraded to meet EU environmental standards. Caithness and Sutherland Enterprise said the petrol station would close down if it didn't hand over the

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where isolation is unquestionably a badge of honour. He is the only political leader of a major Western European country able, with any semblance of honesty, to predict that people's disposable incomes will rise this year and that unemployment will continue on its downward path.

tries are being dragged into a deflationary. job-destroying spiral — and the public knows it. A survey out this week from the European Commission shows that 40 per cent of people expect their economies to deteriorate this year, with the figure rising to 60 per cent in France. Even more, 44 per cent, expect unemployment, which averages 10.6 per cent today, to rise further.

This is a recession they accurately relate to the relentless pursuit by their leaders of the Maastricht targets for European monetary union - targets which not even Germany, whose Finance Minister, Theo Waigel, thunders that they must be made still more watertight than they already are, managed to meet last year. The depth and duration of this recession will depend on when politicians face up publicly to the reality that to press purblindly onward with EMU in 1999 will prove damaging not only to the health of their parties, but to the bonds of trust that cement democracy.

All recessions create political pain: but it is far worse when the cause is the existence of a date, arbitrarily fixed four years ago, which by definition takes no account of national circumstances. No doubt France has solid domestic reasons to cut its budget deficit and curb its welfare bill; but the obsessive pursuit of EMU is hindering, not helping, these reforms. Low growth - and it could be less than 1.5 per cent this year — will force the deficit back up. If the French government then tightens fiscal policy further to meet the Maastricht 3 per cent deficit ceiling by 1997,

growth will shrink further: and so on down. Germany is in the doldrums too, with the economy actually shrinking. Lower than expected growth last year was a key reason for its own embarrassing budget deficit of 3.6 per cent for 1995, and few independent economists agree with the Bundesbank's

optimistic prediction of a return this year to 2 per cent growth. At almost four million, German unemployment is now at its worst since December 1945, and the pain will not be confined to Germany: as the continent's most powerful economy, it exports its bad news across the whole of Europe.

Helmut Kohl still sees no red lights, and has succeeded for now in fitting the blinkers back over Jacques Chirac's nervously twitching pupils. But around them, tempers are traying and eyes are straying towards the emergency exits. In France, the Centre-Right is quietly starting to steal M Chirac's discarded clothes to argue for, well, a little more suppleness in the timing of EMU.

In Germany, Herr Waigel is busy inventing escape routes of a different kind. In November, he insisted that after EMU, members who ran up excessive deficits should be heavily fined. This amounts to kicking a country when it is down - a scheme calculated to fire bitter resentment against a "German Europe". Now he has gone one better: miscreants, he says, should be kicked out of the club. Since Maastricht contains no such provision, this is legally tricky: Herr Waigel airily cites the "accepted principles of international law" but does not say who would have the power to invoke them. What is more, it is political heresy against his master: if there is one thing on which Herr Kohl insists above all others, it is that EMU, as a stepping stone to political integration, will be absolutely irreversible.

If EMU is an agreement between sovereign states, this cannot be true: all treaties can be revoked. The point Herr Kohl is making, of course, is that EMU will create federation. This is not just personal conviction, but political calculation. He knows that two out of three Germans want to hold on to the mark, so he can sell EMU only as an essential part of his grand political design for united Europe. In reality, the pursuit of EMU is disuniting Europe. Herr Kohl is probably the only continental politician whose position would actually be strengthened if he were to admit the political necessity of postponing Europe's date with an uncertain monetary destiny. Unhappily for Europe, he shows no sign of seeing sense.

UP AND AWAY

With The Times to the great world balloon race

Like Webster's dictionary, romantics of the world are Morocco-bound. And that pun from the cheerful old Road film is apt, because the race to be first to fly around the world by balloon has much of the romance and adventure of that early Technicolor, singing-and-dancing cinema. When they get round to making the film, the director will have at his disposal ready-made titles as evocative as Around the World in Twenty Days or Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Balloons.

Even in the subtext, life is imitating Jules Verne and Haggard Riding the ripping yarns. After weeks of waiting, the winds have at last changed, so that a Dutch team aims to launch its attempt from Niimegen on Monday, a little before Richard Branson and his crew are hoping to lift off from Marrakesh. On Wednesday the American challenger flew into trouble over the Atlantic, and escaped an icy death by the skin of his capsule. The Moroccan Army in scarlet and tarbooshes will provide exotic colour next week. The extras will include readers of British newspapers who have won competitions to launch this last great aviation challenge. And, of course, the gentleman from The Times will be in a following jet with orders to keep up as best as he can.

The Times was born in 1785 at the very beginning of the balloon age, in that year when hot-air balloons were taking off all over Europe. During the siege of Paris in 1870 we were microscopically reduced and flown into Paris by balloon: news and classified advertisements (in the circumstances, mostly deaths) were flown back out

to us at Printing House Square.
The Montgoliter brothers launched man's imagination into the sky with their hot-air balloon and its crew of a rooster, a duck and a sheep. This airy symbolism inspired the Count of Provence to extemporise in windy French rhymes: "The English, that arrogant nation, claim the empire of the mer. But we French, a buoyant nation, are claiming mastery of the air."

But within a century lighter-than-air balloons were superseded by the power and flexibility of heavier-than-air craft, and by the disasters that engulfed airships such as the R101 and the Hindenburg. It is a delightful paradox of aviation history that in this age of space travel and vapour trails that stitch up the skies faster than sound balloons are making their comeback.

For recreation they float silently for looking down on the troubles of the world from a bird's-eye view. Safer gases and stronger technology are making balloons a cheap method of carrying heavy cargo. These modern balloons, with their helium compartments and pressurised capsules, are to the Montgolfiers' globe of canvas and paper as Hyperion to a sparrow. They fly at 240 mph, seven miles up, riding the jet streams of the Earth. Any day now, the racing balloonists will fly over 90 countries, some of them war-zones as inimical to overflying as the Sun was to Icarus. But in spite of their astonishing modern technology the balloonists are still fulfilling man's old dream, to win, to get there first, to circumnavigate the globe, to fly.

HOW IS THAT?

'Dickie' Bird is set to draw stumps

Umpire Harold Bird - "Dickie" to friends, players and aficionados in every cranny of the cricketing commonwealth - has announced that he will retire after his next Test match. Fittingly, the game will be played at Lord's, between England and Indias two sides which still interpret cricket in a friendly-spirited language. The 22 players on that occasion, and the spectators at the ground, will doubtless pay him generous tribute. And Lord's itself may think up some affectionate honour: the "Dickie" Bird Tavern, perhaps? For this umpire, as much as the best practitioners of cricket's other arts, has made himself a very part of the game.

Mr Bird has been the umpire par excellence of the modern, televisual era. The camera has, over 23 years and 65 Test matches, captured both his skill and his sense of humour. Just as his chuckles between overs are beamed into the nation's living rooms, so too is the slow-motion detail of his finely honed decisions.

Scarcely anyone groans or yowls or screams abuse when Mr Bird raises his right index finger: and players, too, in this acrimonious age of cricketers, seem always to take his judgments with docility. His fellow-umpires, whether English or foreign. hold him in the highest regard: in an interview with The Times last year.

S. Venkataraghavan, Mr Bird's heir-apparent as the world's best umpire, declared that wearing the white coat together with Dickie is a source of great comfort".

Yet if Mr Bird's celebrity is due in part to television, his impending departure may have been caused by television as well. Unkind, carping articles have appeared in the press from time to time - especially in the last year - drawing attention to a few of those decisions which umpires-in-the-stands are apt to call "iffy"

Camera technology is now utterly remorseless. Commentators today speak with the frankness and irreverence that go with our age: decisions that were once described as "touch and go" are now denounced, nakedly, as "wrong". The margin of error that umpires have enjoyed and should continue to do so - has all but vanished. Mr Bird is still an astonishingly good umpire, but television has shown that he too has his moments of fallibility: the criticism has rankled.

His departure will rob the game of a great showman, and a little of its rectitude. But it may free Mr Bird for some less taxing pursuits. For 30 years or more he has turned his back on marriage — being, as he puts it, "married to cricket". Perhaps there will be time, at last, for a Mrs Bird. How's that?

From Sir John Nott

Sir. It is damaging to serious debate about the future of this country when former politicians, particularly former leaders of the Conservative Party. are inhibited from making public contributions to policy by the media frenzy that always accompanies anything

Parris's phrase). It was an interesting speech, delivered in a sober tone and was constructive throughout.

current media hysteria.

ble commentary on her speech but your own journalists, including Peter Riddell ("Major left in no doubt about his 'wrong direction'"), as well as every other serious newspaper, and including the BBC, selectively quoted from it, apparently with the intention of damaging the Government and personal relationships between pre-sent and former politicians. All of this was spiced, of course, with further selected "rent-a-quotes" from the usual Tory backbenchers.

I was glad to see that you also published lengthy textual extracts from the speech, but I wish that the media would do more in its reporting to encourage intelligent debate about the great issues facing the country.

Stakeholder economy

From Mr Nicholas Bennett

sponsible, free society.

er nationalised industries has given the public a stake and an influence in those companies which they never enjoyed when they were state-owned. which gives families a stake in the area in which they live. It is "communally-owned" housing which is abused and vandalised.

our, its constant refrain is that the public services are "underfunded"; presumably it intends to spend more. Only the Conservatives believe in because it enables as many as possible to look after themselves and their only erodes that incentive but pushes a few more families from self-reliance

with such labels is merely a change in packaging, does not believe in real choice. Mr Blair may send his son eight miles across London to the grant-maintained school of his choice yet Labour (and Liberal Democrat) councils across the country fight tooth and nail any application by a school which wishes to opt out of their con-

Its desire for another tier of government in Wales and Scotland, its wish to embrace the regulations of the Social Chapter and its enthusiasm for a European single currency, is the same old Labour which the voters have rejected four times since 1979.

Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS BENNETT (Prospective Conservative Parliamentary candidate for Reading West), 7 Haredon Close, SE23.

From Mr Matthew J. Rock

Sir, The word "stakeholder" has long been commonplace in business. Companies refer to stakeholders being their employees, shareholders, customers, suppliers and the wider com-

satisfying your shareholders' de-mands for increased dividend pay-

And how do you balance a supplier's willingness to boost his order book with the environmentalist's pressure to cut down on the use of natural

The use of the word "stakeholder" is a licence for conflicts of interest.

Yours faithfully, MATTHEW J. ROCK, January II.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Media distortion of serious debate

I attended Lady Thatcher's speech last night mainly in respect for Keith Joseph's memory, not as a member of the Thatcher "diaspora" (Matthew

As a former member of the "One Nation" Dining Club whose members, incidentally, included Edward Heath and Enoch Powell, I was amused by the phrase "No Nation" Tories. To make a whole political drama out of it is an indication of

Your leader was a relatively sensi-

Yours faithfully, JOHN NOTT, 32 Hampstead High Street, NW3. January 12.

Sir, If Tony Blair wishes to steal Conservative clothing ("Blair's big phrase", leading article, January 10) he must take the foundation garments and not just the jacket of an idea. From what one can discern of his concept of a "stakeholding society" it would appear that he is firmly wedded to old Labour's corporatist ideals. He has not grasped the fact that real public ownership is private ownership. It is choice and private owner-ship of wealth by individuals and their families which underpins a re-

The purchase of shares in the form-

New Labour may claim that it be lieves in lower taxes but, like old Lablower taxes and less state interference families. Every increase in taxes not

to state dependence. New Labour, which like all goods

The reality is that new Labour, with

January 10.

munity. This has brought with it many problems: how do you satisfy your customers' desire for outstanding customer service when you are also ments? Redundancy programmes and customer service do not make comfortable bedmates.

resources?

68 Dalgarno Gardens, W10.

End to torment of wondering what awaits us in Hell?

From Mr Robert Saxena

Sir, The Anglican Church is to be commended for at last coming out against the cruel hoay called "Hell", in which sinners are tortured forever by toasting and roasting in literal fire (re-

port, January II).
This doctrine has no basis whatever in the Judaeo-Christian Scriptures but was incorporated into the Catholic religion from pagan sources, like so many other dogmas. Unfortunately the Reformation failed to get rid of it. and so it has persisted in the Protestant churches till now.

In the King James version the word Hell was rendered from the Hebrew sheol, which doesn't mean a place of eternal torment but the grave, or condition of death, pending a resurrection in "the last day". (See Martha's comment to Jesus at John xi, 24.)

The word "fire" is frequently used in the Bible as a symbol of total extinction (not torture), for fire destroys all living things. So when sinners are damned to "eternal fire" it only means they are condemned to eternal destruction, or brought to nothingness, as the Church's report rightly in-

God did not make Heaven and Hell. Genesis (i, 1) clearly says, "In the beginning God made Heaven and Earth". Hell, or the grave, or death, came only after man's original sin. Yours faithfully,

R. G. SAXENĀ. Bible Research Fellowship, 25 Edgell Street, Kettering, Northamptonshire. From Mr C. A. Hollands

Sir, God of course loves us all and would never consign any individual to torment. If, however, a person consistently rebels against God then the best God can do for him is simply to leave him alone.

The Church of England is therefore doing its members a disservice by tranquillising the issue. A respectable fear of Hell should be part of any Christian religion and is intrinsically healthy. It is a corrective against slackening one's faith to the point where it becomes too cosy and finally fades away into mere benign feelings for the world around us.

Yours sincerely, C. A. HOLLANDS, Bramcote, 14 Charlesford Avenue, Kingswood, Maidstone, Kent. January 12

From Mr Tim J. Smith

Sir, Tom Rees, a popular and successful evangelist in the South East in the Fifties and Sixties, used to say that "if Heaven is only made of streets of gold. I don't want to go there".

I have never taken that remark to mean that Heaven isn't a reality, but rather that language is a bit useless in trying to describe how brilliant it is to be in the presence of God, or how hell-

ish to be outside. Artists of the past tried to represent this imagery on canvas and the Church has been vilified ever since for

believing such cruel nonsense. But what words are sufficient to describe being with, or without, God? Even the thought of the latter is scarv!

Sadly, we don't like to see or hear images of reality. But if God is the ultimate in justice as well as mercy, we must learn to live with the searing images of both.

Yours faithfully. T. J. SMITH, 5 Raymond Avenue, South Woodford, E18. January 12.

From Mr Bernard Kaukas

Sir. Sartre's definition of Hell other people" - fits in well with his vacuous philosophy of existentialism. in that it has no meaning. A better Frenchman, Georges Bernanos, defined it more aptly: "Hell . . . is not to love any more".

Yours faithfully, BERNARD KAUKAS, Savage Club. Whitehall Place, SWI. January II.

From Mrs Joan Woolard

Sir, Two thousand years ago the Jewish sage. Philo, wrote: "The real hell is the life of the wicked" (De Congressu. xi. 57).

Yours faithfully, JOAN WOOLARD, Fleet Hargate, Lincolnshire.

Terence Cuneo: recollections of the man and the mouse

Sir, Terry Cuneo began to be appre-

hensive about the power of mice.

Some 15 years ago in his studio were

two pictures on easels shortly to go to

Jordan. One was of the King himself

in full military uniform, the other was

a large canvas of the Arab Legion

I was on my hands and knees, look-

ing for the mouse, when Terry stiffened. I realised why, and said: "Has the

mouse become bigger than the artist?"

Terry acknowledged to me that he

sometimes only painted in the mouse

when the client requested it on collec-

tion, and told me that he knew that

Conan Doyle grew to be antipathetic

Sir. Terence Cuneo was a friend of my

father, and I remember him visiting

us in Cambridge in the early 1960s.

artist. He would arrive in a burst of

energy and good humour, with lots of

time for us children. His paintings of

From Mr David Thirlby

storming a desert fort.

to Sherlock Holmes.

DAVID THIRLBY.

Northwich, Cheshire,

24 Eaglesfield, Hartford,

From Mr A. P. Willmer

Faithfully.

From Mr Stanley J. Blenkinsop

Sir, The late Terence Cuneo would have smiled ruefully at the letters (January 8) about his mouse "trademark".

He once told me: "That damn' mouse is the first thing people look for when they see my paintings — all too often they take no notice of the rest!] sometimes wish I could drop it." But it had become so identified with his work that he felt he could not - or people like your reader, Mr Haddow, would spend ages vainly looking for

Incidentally, it was in 1953, while doing a military picture at Catterick Camp, that Cuneo first adopted a mouse. In the garrison church there he was fascinated by the tiny mice cut into each of the pews. Thus inspired, Cuneo incorporated

a mouse into his Catterick painting

and was so delighted by the initial reaction that he decided to do so with every picture in one guise or another. Yours sincerely, STANLEY J. BLENKINSOP,

22 Roan Court. Macclesfield, Cheshire. January 8.

Mergers and takeovers From Mr David Gordon

Sir, William Rees-Mogg (article, January !i) supports Forte in its resistance to the hostile bid from Granada, and attacks conglomerates.

In admitting a prejudice for Forte — he was once chairman of its publishing subsidiary - he seems unaware of the contradiction in his argument that the admission throws up: for a hotels group to own a book publisher is a pretty conglomeratish thing to do and yet did not prevent Forte from being, in Rees-Mogg's words, "a very well run company

Now let me admit my prejudice for Gerry Robinson. He was on the board of ITN while I was chief executive and became its chairman at the time of my resignation. I have rarely come across a businessman as straightforward, clear-thinking and effective.

As to this pro- and anti-conglomerate argument, the fact is that all large companies are an agglomeration of quite separate operating units, and at Granada they are clustered around leisure. Rees-Mogg gave examples of acquisitive conglomerates that met a sticky end, but what about GE in the US, one of the best companies in the world, and unashamedly diversified?

Yours faithfully. DAVID GORDON (Chief Executive, ITN, 1993-95), 212 Piccadilly, WI. January II.

From Mr M. E. B. Walters

writes William Rees-Mogg. I concur. As a stockbroker I have now dealt in both the original and the reincarna-tion of House of Fraser. Albright & Wilson, Exco. Wiggins Teape (now

Watch for Dunlop returning to the market following a recent demerger. And any betting that your readers will once again stay at a Trusthouse-owned Trust House hotel?

Buckinghamshire.

Britain and Europe

From the Leader of the UK Independence Party

Sir, Mr Gordon Smith fletter, January 8) is surely being obtuse in his speculations concerning how Dr Peter Chapman (letter, December 23) would

cast his vote. Of course Dr Chapman will refuse to vote Labour or Liberal Democrat. However, given his evident intelligence and patriotism he is hardly liketo be fooled by naive claims that John Major has been "skilfully negotiating to keep our liberties while profiting commercially from such aspects of the EU as are not completely corrupt". Your past editorials have been only too eloquent regarding the economic and political costs to the country incurred by such of Mr Major's initiatives as ERM membership and the

Maastricht treaty. No, Dr Chapman assures me that he will be voting for the UK Independence Party.

Yours sincerely, ALAN SKED. Leader, UK Independence Party. SO Regent Street, W1. January 9.

Sir, "The City has repeatedly found easy money in corporate finance".

Arjo Wiggins), Ruberoid and Chubb. All these companies were originally acquired by conglomerates and subsequently unbundled, with no doubt "all the fun of the fair fees.

Yours faithfully, MARTIN WALTERS,

Little Wardrobes, Wardrobes Lane, Loosley Row, Princes Risborough.

A tasty dish

From Mr Richard Smith

Sir. Zander (report by Robin Young and leading article, January 10) is mentioned in a British cook book. It is in André L. Simon's Guide to Food and Wines, in the fish section under

The giant perch of Germany, the zander. abounds in the Elbe and is one of the gastronomical glories of Dresden. The best ways of cooking a perch are the same as for

Grayling are usually cooked like trout Yours faithfully, RICHARD SMITH, Tudor Cottage,

Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.

Lilley's Alley,

January 10.

· Weekend Money letters, page 39

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by relephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

which he drove with great panache. The last time I saw him was I think in 1963, leaving in a burst of smoke and squealing tyres in the same Rolls-

steam engines and railways, which he

would bring to show us, were worn-

drous. So was the 1930s Rolls-Royce

Royce, with large canvasses strapped to the roof, no real thought attached to their safety (or potential value).

Yours faithfully, A. P. WILLMER, 18 High Street, Buckden, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. January 9.

From Mr G. A. G. Shepheard

Sir, Terence Cuneo's hallmark was not always readily appreciated. In 1965 the then chairman of Lloyd's of London was appalled, at a preview of a work commissioned by the society, to see several mice in the painting.

He reprimanded Cuneo, saying

that he was not being paid a large fee "to show Lloyd's as a rodent-infested establishment". The artist was eventually permitted to leave in one.

Yours faithfully, GEOFFREY SHEPHEARD. 62 Park Road, Woking, Surrey. January 8.

Fashion dilemma From Ms Sarah Mulholland

Sir, The problem which faced the shopper next to me yesterday was whether her mobile telephone would fit in the evening bag being considered for purchase.

I am still debating whether this is a sign of progress, but have no doubt the fashion industry will soon make it an (expensive) success symbol.

Sincerely SARAH MULHOLLAND. 39 Private Road, Nottingham. January 6.

Changes in the City

From Mrs M. R. Harkness Sir. Can someone please explain to me why old women, whether from Throgmorton Street or elsewhere (letter. January 6), are invariably men (of any age) and never elderly ladies?

Yours faithfully, MARGARET HARKNESS, 7 Cloisters Road. Letchworth Garden City. Hertfordshire.

Still running

From Mr Anthony Baker

Sir. Jonathan Robinson (letter, January 3) quotes Matthew Arnold's famous words about "this strange disease of modern life, with its sick hurry' without mentioning that Arnold is said to have died of heart failure after running to catch a tram.

Yours faithfully. ANTHONY BAKER. Sidcot, Winscombe, Somerset,

Where rivers flow

From Dr P. J. S. Whitmore

Sir. Whether the Derwent "rushes past the glory of Chatsworth" as Mr Roy Hattersley has it (Weekend, January 6) or merely flows is a matter of opinion. It is, however, a matter of geographical fact that it does neither past Haddon, where the river is the Wye.

Yours faithfully P. J. S. WHITMORE. Woodlands, Denstone, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire,





COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM,

January 12: The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Briga-dier Evelyn Webb-Carter at the Funeral of Major E.C. Weaver which was held in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, this

ST JAMES'S PALACE January 12: The Prince of Wales today visited York and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Licutenant of North Yorkshire (Sir Marcus Worsley, Bt). His Royal Highness, President,

this morning attended a Reception

Weekend events

TODAY: The Queen's Life Guard nounts at Horse Guards at Harn. TOMORROW: The Oueen's Life tiam. The Oueen's Guard mounts

Dinner

The Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland Great Britain and Ireland held their Winter Scientific Meeting dinner yesterday at the Cafe Royal. London, Wl. The President, Dr S.M. Lyons and Mrs Lyons, received the guests who included: Dr and Mrs W I. M Baird, Professor J P Blandy, Dr and Mrs A 1 J Brain. Sir Remeth and Lady Calman, Dr H and Mrs Rev W Campbell, Professor and Mrs R S I Clarke, Dr C J Clough, Mr and Mrs H W Cooke, Dr and Mrs I Cooper, Mr B H Goodhan, Mr and Mrs C Gooper, Mr B H Goodhan, Mr and Mrs C Gooper, Mr B H Goodhan, Mr and Mrs C Stranger and Lady Irvine, Mr J N Johnson. Sir Robert and Lady Irvine, Mr J P Nurn. Professor Talk E Oh. Professor and Mrs C Pty. Roberts, Mr and Wrs C P Nurn. Professor Talk E Oh. Professor and Mrs M Rosen. Sir Rodney and Lady Mrs L Pty. Sanstin. Professor and Mrs M D Vickers and Mrs M D Vickers and Mrs M D Vickers and Mrs M Sue Vincent. S.M. Lyons and Mrs Lyons, re-

Reception

HM Government Mr George Kynoch, Minister for Industry and Local Government at the Sontish Office, was the host at a ne soumen union, was the host at a reception given by Her Malessy's Government yesterday in Edinburgh Castle for the Japanese business cummunity in Scotland.

mured York City developments.

funded by The Prince's Youth

Business Trust at the Merchant

Adventurers Hall. The Prince of Wales afterwards His Royal Highness this after-noon visited the Law Courts. The Prince of Wales, Patron,

Council of British Archaeology. later visited the offices of the Council, met staff and received a presentation of the work of the

His Royal Highness subsequently visited the studio of the wood and stone carver. Mr Richard Reid. at 23 Fishergate.

Memorial service

Mrs Margaret Watkin
A memorial service for Mrs Margaret Auriol Watkin, university lecturer and magistrate, was held yesterday at \$1 Peter's. Carmarthen. The Rev Randolph Thomas officiated, assisted by the Rev Peter Thomas, the Rev Glyndwr Walker, the Rev T. Arwyn Thomas and the Rev J. Elwyn Jenkins, who led the prayers.

The Lord Leinemant of Dyfed read the Jessons. The Rev Professor J.

the Lord Lementani of Dytest results the lessons. The Rev Professor J. Tudno Williams read from Ymadawiad Arthur by T. Gwynn Jones and from the works of Dylan Thomas. The Right Rev J, Ivor Rees gave an address.
The High Sheriff of Dyled and Mrs.

Rosemary Thompson, Ichairman of council. The Magistrates Associ-ation), with Mrs A Fuller (deputy chairman) and Ms Sally Dickinson (secretary) attended.

Service dinner

RN College Greenwich
Commodore C.R. Beagley presided at
the annual dinner of Officers of the
Royal Naval Reserve Public Affairs
branch held fast night at the Royal
Naval College Greenwich. Commander S.J. Eagles was the principal
speaker. Commodore D.G. MacDonald and Captain TJ. NormanWalker were among the guests. Walker were among the guests.

Latest wills

Mr Douglas Edward Araold, of Spirfire Hungar, Biggin Hill Airfield. Biggin Hill. Kent, left estate valued at 14302,100 net.

School news

Mili Hill School Spring term started on Wednes-day, January 10, Kathy Haering is Senior Monitor and Paul Gripari Captain of Hockey. Mr Gareth Homfray-Davies joins the Mill Hill School Foundation as Director of Admissions. Dr Robin Anderson, of the Tavistock Centre, rents" on lanuary 24. Admiral Armstrong, Director of the College of Defence Studies, gives The Prestige Lecture on February 13. The Inter-House Drama Final takes place on March 8. Under The European Initiative the Fourth

Germany and Spain on March 23 Term ends on March 27 with the Ten Mile Cup. The School is a registered charity and exists for the education of boys and girls.

Westonbirt School Spring Term begins on Sunday, January 14. Kenny Ball & his Jazzmen will perform at the school on February S. The School Choirs will perform Vivoldi's Gioria and Purcell's Come ye Sons of Art away on February 16. The Bishop of Tewkesbury will conduct the Confirmation Service on Saturday, February 24, at flam. Term ends on Friday. March 22, after the final Form departs for cities in France. performance of The King and I.

Chartered Foresters

The following have passed the Institute of Chartered Foresters' 1995 Professional Examinations and have been promoted to Ordinary Membership with the right to use the title "Chartered Forester" and the designation "MICFor from January I, 1996. Miss L R Dyke and Mr R K Gable urre awarded Passes with

Distinction.

P. R. K. Allen. Fountasin Forestry.
Banbury, Oxfordshire. A.R. Bethell.
Superior Woodlands. Gloucestershire: A. M. Berryman. ADAS.
Excler. Devon: R.D. Black, Forestry
Authorny. Inverness: M. Portoniey, Forest Enterprise.
Lyndhurst., Hampshire. M. W.
Bridge, Fountain Forestry. Bedale,
North Yorkshire. M. J. Colledge,
Forest Enterprise. Clitheroe.
Lancashire. Miss. R. Dyke, Forest
Enterprise. Rusteley. Staffordinter. Miss. R. Ryan. Forest
Enterprise. Forestry.
Bula.
Gwynelde, R. K. Gable, Forestry.
Authority. Abenjavenny, Gwent: G.
V. Garfatt. Tilbill Economic

Names (the Bodenount) on 12th December of The Lines Humani, European & The Humani, European Humani, European Donneung brother for Ursale. GLEDHULL - On 6th Jenney

The Portland Hospital, to party Demond and Runas Jon Gudelis. a beautiful daughter, Hana Maria

Forestry, Church Stretton.
Shropshire: Miss N E Germany.
Fountain Forestry, Newton Abbot.
Devon: R N Gosslim, Forestry
Authority. Coleford. Gloucestershire. A M Hampson. Scottish
Natural Heritage, Edinburgh: D H
Hardie. Shorton Forest Management: I R Harvey, Forestry
Authority, Northwich, Cheshire: I
Jennings, Forest Enterprise. Corby, Northamptonshire. D G
Jones, Forest Enterprise. Lianness,
Gwynedd: Miss S R Jones.
Fountain Forestry, Newton Abbot.
Devon.

Fountain Forestry, Newton Abbot.
Devon.

J. D. Levell. Forest Enterprise.
Neath. West Glamorgan; J. N.
Mackay. Shotton Forest
Management. Carifsle. Cumbria:
P. N. Oliver. sell employed: H. D.
Robertson. Finlayson Hughes.
Kincralg, Inverness-shire: Ms S. M.
Rowland. Kirklees Metropolitan
Council. Huddersfield. West
Yorkshire: A. J. Shirtey-Priest.
Abboy. Forestry. Pershore.
Worcester, Miss J. M. Tarwinska.
Forestry Authority. Dumfries; A. G.
Wiseman. Forest Enterprise.
Neath. West Glamorgan: A. R.
Worthingon. Forest Enterprise,
Cambridge.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Mr Craigie Aitchison, painter, 70: Air Marshal Sir John Baker-Carr, 90; Mr Clive Betts, MP, 46; Sir Johannes Bjelke-Petersen, former Premier of Queensland. 85; Mr Richard Blackford, composer, 42; Mr Michael Bond, author and creator of Paddington Bear, 70; Dr Sydney Brenner, CH, molecular biologist, 69; Sir John Caines, civil servant, 63; Miss Carolyn Corben, fashion designer, 33: Mr Edward Crew, Chief Constable, Northamptonshire, 50; the Earl of Essex, 76; Mr

Anniversaries

kvo, 1925.

Stephen Glover, former Edi-

tor. Independent on Sunday,

44; Mr Ronan Rafferty, golfer

TOMORROW: Captain Sir

Alastair Aird, private secre-

BIRTHS: Jan van Goyen, land-scape painter, Leiden. The Netherlands, 1596: Charles Per-rault, writer and collector of folk

DEATHS: Edmund Spenser, poet,

London. 1599: George Fox, founder

of the Society of Friends, London, 1691: James Macknight, hiblical critic, Edinburgh, 1800: John Scott, 1st Earl of Eldon, Lord Chancellor

1801-o and 1807-27. London, 1838; Fabian Bellinghausen, Polar explorer, Russia, 1852; Stephen Colins Foster, songwriter, New York, 1864; Slr John Seeley, historian, Cambridge, 1895; James Joyce, novelist, Zurich, 1941; Hubert

Humphrey, American Vice-President 1965-69, Waverley, Minne-

The Independent Labour Party

was formed under Kehr Hardie.

Nasu selected its first women

BIRTHS: John Biddle, Unitarian,

Wotton-under-Edge. Gloucester-shire, baptised this day, 1615; Benedict Arnold, American gen-eral and traitor, Connecticut, 1741;

Mannew Maury, hydrographer, Sponsylvania, Virginia, 1806; Henri Fantin-Latour, painter, Gre-

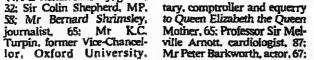
noble. 1836; Wilson Carlile, founder of the Church Army.

astronauts, 1978.

TOMORROW

TODAY

tales, Paris, 1628.



Brixton, London, 1847; Pierre Loti.

novelist, Rochelort, France, 1850; John Dos Passos, novelist, Chi-

cago, 1896; Albert Schweitzer, doc-

tor, musician and missionary

Kaysenberg, France. 1875; Sir Cecil Beaton, photographer, London, 1904; Yukio Mishima, writer, To-

DEATHS: Edmond Halley, astro-nomer, London, 1742; George Berkeley, philosopher and Bishop of Cloyne 1734-53, Oxford, 1753; Samuel Spatking, philosopher, Cape of Good Hope, 1843; Jean Ingres, painter, Paris, 1867; Henry Edward Mannian, Cardinal Amb

Edward Manning, Cardinal Arch-bishop of Westminster 1865-92, London, 1892; Lewis Carroll

(escudonym of Charles Dodgson).

Humphrey Bogart, actor, Holly-wood, 1957; Anthony Eden, 1st Earl

of Avon, Prime Minister 1955-57, Salisbury, 1977; Peter Finch, actor.

The last London Frost Fair was

The first demonstration of Alexan-

der Graham Bell's telephone was made to Queen Victoria at Os-

borne House, Isle of Wight, 1878.

More than 1,000 people were killed when an earthquake destroyed

most of Kingston, Jamaica, 1907.

The newly renovated Covent Garden Opera House opened with

a staging of Bizer's Carmen. 1947.

Los Angeles, 1977.

beld, 1814.

writer, Guildford, Surrey, 1898;



Stephen Hendry, the snooker player, is 27 today; Faye Dunaway, the actress, will be 55 tomorrow

Mr Richard Briers, actor, 62; Baroness Brooke of Ystra-dielte, 88; Lord Catto, 73; the

Earl of Drogheda, 59; Lord Ellenborough, 70; Mr Simon Fielding, chairman, General Council and Register of Osteo-paths, 43; Miss Maina Gielgud, ballerina, 51; Miss Andrée Grenfell, former managing director, Glemby Inter-

national, 56; Miss Sophie Harkey, fashion designer, 31; Sir Martin Holdgate, president, Zoological Society of London, 65; Sir Arthur Hoole, former president, Law Society, 72; Professor Sir Hans Kornberg, former Master, Christ's College, Cambridge, 68; Mr John Lever. Headmaster, Canford School, Dorset, 44.

Mr Warren Mitchell, actor. 70; Lieutenant-Colonel N.J. Newman, Chapter Clerk, St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, 54: Mr Trevor Numm. theatre director, 56; Sir Neil Pritchard, diplomat, 85; Mr C.R. Reeves, banker, 60; Sir Vernon Seccombe, chairman Plymouth Hospitals' NHS Trust, 68; Mrs Hazel Williamson, QC, 49; Sir John Wood-cock, former HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, 64: Mr Roger Young, chief executive, Scottish Hydro-Electric,

The Rev Geoffrey Smith to be the new Canon Residentiary of Bratford Cathedral. The Rev David Lee, Priest in Charge, Middleton and Wishaw; to be Residentiary Canon and Director of Birmingham Ca-(budira)

Charge West Winch w Setchey and North Runcton; to be also Priest in Charge of Middleton (Norwich). The Rev John Downs, Curate (NSM) at Barlestone; to be Curate (NSM) at Thornton, Bagworth and Stanton, with pestoral duties at Markfield (Leicester).

The Rev Julie Eaton, non-stipen diary assistant in the Billericay and Little Burstead Team Ministry; to be Team Vicar in the Billericay and Little Burstead Team Ministry, with particular responsibility for St John the Divine (Chemstord).

The Rev Canon Brian Hails, Industrial Chaplain of Sunderland (within the Northumbrian Indus-trial Mission and the Diocese of Durham); to be also Team Rector of the Sunderland Team Ministry. The Rev Nicholas Von Benzon. formerly Assistant Curate, War-minster St Denya, Consley w Chapmanslade, and The Deverilla-to be Team Vicar, the newly formed Cley Hill Team Ministry (Sallsbury).

Church news The Rev Paul Whitehead, Assis tant Curate, Mansfield Wood-house, St Edmund King and Martyrno be Associate Priest, St

Paul's, Carlton, w special responsibility at Colwick, St John the Baptist (Southwell).

The Rev Canon Geoffrey Willett, Priest-in-charge, Markfield and Rural Dean of Sparkenhoe Eastro

be also Priest-in-charge, Thornton, Bagworth and Stanton (Lekester). The Rev Keith Williams, Assistant Curate (NSM), Netherfield w
Colwick: to be Associate
Priest(NSM), Gedling, All Hallows, w special responsibility at
Netherfield, St George (South-

Resignations and referencests

The Rev Elizabeth Capper, Assistant Curare, All Saints, Whitstable in the Whitstable Team Ministry (Canterbury): to resign January 7. The Rev Peter Chippendale, Vicar, Holy Trinity, Lickey (Birmingham): to resign February 29. The Rev Ronald Duffield, Recor, East Knoyle, Semley and Sedgehill (Salisbury): to redec January 1. (Salisbury): to retire January J.
The Rev David Pairman, Team
Vicar, Marshwood Vale Tham
Ministry (Salisbury): retired
November 30.

The Rev Raymond Weaver, NSM. Weymouth Holy Trinity (Salis-

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.G. Brookman and Miss A.R. Glenny

The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Brookman, of Cumbria, formerly of Reigate, and Alison Rosalind, younger daugh-ter of the late Revd William Glenny and of Mrs Margaret Glenny, of Hampshire

Mr C Chillian and Miss R.V.A. Golding

The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Mr and Mrs Joe Chili of Consen. Co Durham, and Rosemary, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs A.M.B. Golding, of St John's Wood, London.

Mr XJ.F. Carks

and Miss & L Sluis The engagement is announced between Kevin, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Joseph Clarke, of Goffs Oak, Herstordshire, and Lucy, younger daughter of the late Mr David Stade and of Zinnia Stade, of Whitstable, Kent.

Mr R.E. Davies and Miss L.E. Sylvester

The engagement is announced between Richard, only son of Mr and Mrs E. Davies, of Bramhope, Leeds, and Linda Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs A.P. Sylvester, of Bramhope, Leeds.

Mr F.E. Delan and Miss M.L. Bedford The engagement is announced between Prancis, third son of the late Mr Denis Dolan and of Mrs Sheila Dolan, of New Malden, and Marianne, eldest daughter of Mr

and Mrs John Bedford, of Cold Ash, Berkshire. Mr O. Leines

not Min L.K.B. Bellerd The engagement is announced between Oystein, third son of Mr-and Mrs Johannes Leines, of Dilling Norway, and Lucy Kate Boadicea, second daughter of Mr and Mrs John Bedford, of Cold Ash, Berkshire.

Mr P.K. Flores and Miss R.M.St.J. Shaw The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs Norman Florence, of Hay-on-Wye, and Rebecca, eldest daughter of Mrs Harriet Birchley, of Llanwarne, Herefordshire.

Mr J.H.G. Glendinging and Miss E.Z. McPherson The engagement is announced between Graham, son of Mr and Mrs R.J. Glendinning, of Island Reagh, Comber, Co Down, and Zoe, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.L.

and Miss C.S. Rentoul The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Hans Huttner, of Raisting, Germany, and Charlotte Sara, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Rentoud of Strawberry Hill, Twickenham.

and Miss E.L. Major

The engagement is announced between Roger, son of Mr and Mrs Alec Marlow, of Bramhall, Cheshire, and Esmé Louise, only daugh-ter of Mr and Mrs Frank Major, of Washington, Tyne and Wear.

Mr M.G. O'Connor

and Miss D.A. Templeton The engagement is announced between Michael son of Mr A.M. O'Connor, of Salfords, Surrey and the late Mrs July O'Connor, and Dawn, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.J. Templeton, of Sution Cold-field, West Midlands.

Mr S.W.K. Wickham nd Miss E.C. Bevan The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs James Wickham, of Westward Hol, Devonshire, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs

Michael Bevan, of Gresham,

Marriages

Mr G.A. Middleton and Mile L. de Tarragon

In the Chapelle Saint-Louis de l'Ecole Militaire, Paris, of Mr. George Alexander Middleton, son of Sir George and Lady Middleton, of London, to Mile Lactitia de Tarragon, daughier of La Comte and La Comtesse de Tarragon, of Neurilly, France M Le Chanoine de

Tarragon officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Armand de Juniac, Maxim de Juniac, Marguerite Lemoroy, Stanislas Lemoroy and Harriet Bouchard. M Remault de Tarragon was best man.

A reception was held at l'École
Militaire and the honeymoon will

be spent in the Maidives. Mr CJ. Pearsall

and Miss T.M. Wright The marriage took place on December 14, at City Hall, Hong Kong, of Mr Christopoer remains son of the late Mr and Mrs Joseph Pearsall, of Walsall, Salfordshire, to Miss Tim Wright, eldest daugh-Kong, of Mr Christopher Pearsall ter of Mr and Mrs Tho Wright, of Holker, Cumbria.

Church services tomorrow

Second Sunday after Epiphany ASERDEEN CATHUDRAL & HC. 10,15 S Euch. Howard in A flat, O name lux fields, The Provest: 6.30 Choral E. Holy is the russ light (Harris), Nobje in 8 milnor, Ascribe unto the Lord (Travers).

BELAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 5 Euch. 0
pata lux (Tallis). Sacretoses Domini (Byrd):
3.30 Choral E & Holy Baptisms Expecians
expectavi (Wood).

III Dhinish HAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP: 9.15 HC:
11 Choral Euch, Mass for Five Volces (Byrd).
Praise our Lord (Byrd). Rev Dr. D Stamps: 4
Choral E. Gregter Love hash no main (treland):
6 Midlands Festival.

6 Midlands Festival.

BLACKBURN CATHEDWAL: BHC: 4,15 Chord
M. Now to the earth in merry (Buck): 10,30
Euch, Canon K Farini; 6,30 Epiphany Carolis
BRISTOL CATHEDRAL, College Green: 7,40
M: 8 HC: 10 Chord Euch, Holy is the true light
(Harris, Missa Brows (Ives, Canon P Johnson:
3,30 Choral E. O Huie Town of Bethlehem
(Dividend) iDavical.

CANTERBUST CATHEOLOGI. E HC. 9.50 M. R.
Rev Dr C Lewis: 11 \$ Euch, Missa Brevis
(Mozarti, Omnes de Saba (Handl), The Deart;
3.15 E. When Jesus our Lord (Mendelssohn);
6.30 Compilne, the Archdeacog. 6.30 Compline, the Archdeacon.
CARLISTE CATHEDRAL: 7,45 M.S. H.C. (0.30 S. Euch. Mass for four voices Byrdi. Omnes de Saba (Handl), Archdeacon O Turnbull: 3 E. There shall be a star from David come forth iMendelscobin).

Williams, The Shepherds' Parewell Clerifon, The Precentor, 6.30 Epighetty Procession. EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch, Deep peace (Rutter), The Trensurer; 11.15 M, Omnet de Saba venient (Handil, The Subbeat; 3 Lo, Stu-fed chiefs (Cortchi: 6.30 K, There thall be a star (Mendulssohn), The Prese There that he a tar [Mendelstohn]. The Poes Vicas.

GAFLOFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 RC. 1.45 & Eoch. Missa Brevis (Gabriell). O magnum myserium (Gabriell). The Dean: 11.15 M. Jubilate Schultzi. The three is a little door [Howells]. Carson M Houghton.

ESCENTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. 10 MP: 10.30 & Eoch. Refolce in the Lord Laway (Percell), Ireland in C. Ven I Statues S Choral & Welcome Insullation & Commissioning of R. Rev W Down, I was glad (Parry). the Rising. LICHIFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. 10.30 & Euch. Messe de Minuit (Charpentica). The magl de Gendbus (Lang), Preb J Pawsin; 3.30 E. My soul is a country (Parry).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L. 8,12.30 HC. (Oldroyd). Let all monal flesh (Bairstow). The Preconor: 11.15 M. Robinsong [Harilin; 3.45 E. Lo. star-led chiefs (Crotch), Carson J Nurser. LIVERPOOL. CATHEDRAL: 8 HP & HC. 10.30 & Eoch. Missa Brevis in D (Mozard, Carson M Soyling: 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: A MP & HC. 10.30 & Lo. 15 Let. The Dean: 9 Parish Ench. Rev J Resivers: 13 Euch. On als lux (Tallis). The Carson. 3.30 Choral E. Ave vigo glorioss (Dering: 6.30 & Sermon. Rev N Court Services of Parish: Carson M Soyling: 6 Euch. Anne luciferum genitose (MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP. 9 MC. 10.30 \$ Euch. Anne luciferum genitose (Hancelli, Carson B. Preston; 6.30 Epiphary Procession.

Jernings: 9.15 Parish C. Canon I Know I 15 East. From the rising of the sun (youngles). The Protock 4 E. Almighty God, which by the reading of a sur (Bull), Canon E Taylox.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HO. 2 Parish Protost: 4 E. Autuga. leading of a star (Bull), Canon R Taylos. WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. 9.45 5 Euck. Ave WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. 9.45 6 Euck. Ave WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. 9 EUCk. Ave WELLS CATHED PATTAIL.

WESTMINSTER ABBET: 8 HC: 10 M. RESPONSES (TAILS). The three kings: (Cornelland, Rev L Dennen: 11.15 Euch, Ser where was he born! (Mendelssohn). O sacrum convisiom (Tails). (Agnor C Semper: 3 k. Seek him the maker of the seven state (Eigen). Canon A Harvey; 3.45 Organ; 6.30 Evening, Sister H. WHITTHE CATHEDRAL 7, 8, 12 Mass: 10 MP: 10.30 SM. O magnum mysterium Victorial, Fannasia on the Old Hundredta (Parryl; 3.30 Solemy V&B, Magnificat Octavi ioni (Lassus), A spodess rose (Howells): 6.30 WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 1 HC: 10.50 M. Latestur coel (Byrd). The Dean; 11.50 Euch. Makes and the latestur coel (Byrd). The Dean; 11.50 Euch. Sand Children name as (Sweelnck; 3.50 E. Lully, Iulia (Leighton), Cabon Waller. MOUTHWELL MIRKTER: 7.30 M & L. B. HC: 3.30 Parish C. Rev S Pagberni: 11 S Buch. Tradle song Shephends, Rev S Pagberni: 3.18 L. When Jesus our Lord was born Mendelsonia. Saba (Handi), Archdeacon D'Turabull: J E.
There shall be a Sar from David come for the file of the shall be a Sar from David come for the file of the shall be a Sar from David come for the file of the shall be a Sar from David come for the file of the shall be a Sar from David come for the file of the shall be a Sar from David come for the file of the Sar from David Carleston.

CHELBSTORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 6 HC.
The Provost: 9.00 Euch, Rev 8 Parkers 11.15
Choral M. Blessed are those servaints (Moeral L.
Through the day (Moore).

E. Through the day (Moore).

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L 8 HC. 10
Choral M. Te Deum (Purcell), Canon T Derinks; 13.00 Choral E. Active legislations for the file of the sort of the sorts of the morning (Archen). The Chancellor, 11 S Euch, Child of the Early Cathedral: 8.45 MP; 9 MC; 10.30 S Euch.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9 MC; 10.30 S Euch, David M; 10 Deam; 9 MC; 10.30 S Euch, David M; 10 Deam; 9 MC; 10.30 S Euch, David M; 10 Deam; 9 MC; 10.30 S Euch, David M; 10 Deam; 9 MC; 10.30 S Euch, David M; 10 Deam; 9 MC; 10.30 S Euch, David M; 10 Deam; 10 Septiments of the Lord (Howell Jones), Ray 8 Grigorium School, The Chancellor, 11 S Euch, Child of the Lord (Egan, Armitista and Deam (Notes), The Chancellor, 11 S Euch, Child of the Lord (Egan, Armitista and Deam (Notes), The Chancellor, 11 S Euch, Child of the Lord (Egan, Armitista and Deam (Notes), The Chancellor, 11 S Euch, Child of the Lord (Egan, Armitista and Deam (Notes), The Chancellor, 11 S Euch, Child of the Lord (Egan, Armitista and Deam (Notes), The Chancellor, 11 S Euch, Child of the Lord (Egan, Armitista and Deam (Notes), The Chancellor, 11 S Euch, Child of the Lord (Egan, Armitista and Deam (Notes), The Child of the Lord (Egan, Armitista and Deam (Notes), The Child of the Lord (Egan, Armitista), The Child of the Lord (Egan, Armitista) and David (Egan, The Short of the Lord (Egan,

10.20 HM: 11 HM, Queen vidints pasteres Declars, The Vicar, 6 East, Videntes stellars Poulency, The Vicar, THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, WI: 11 Missa O recent costi Palestrina, Aima redemproris mater (Soriano), O sacrum redemprofs mater (Sofiano), O secrum convivum (Wagnes).

CHELSRA OLD CHURCE, 5W3: 8.12.15 HC; 10 Children: 11 M, From the fixing of the sun foundary, Mr.) Watherston: 6 E, RW Dr P Ervy. FARM STREET, WI: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15 LM, Fr. M Paras: 11 Missa Brevis KIIS (Mogard, Salvus fac des Gochard), Salvus Missa Brevis KIIS (Mogard, Salvus fac des Gochard), Salvus Missa Promise Sundary Fried Total (Hessler), Just Duicks Memoria. (Shephard): 4.15. 6.15 LM. 11 HM, BOAY TRINITY SECRETON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC. Rev S Devenham; II Informal, Esv S Miller, 5,7.30 Informal, Rev N. Gumbel. THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, 5W7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa O magnum mysterium (Victoria), Laenarus sum (Victoria), 12.30, 4.30, 7, 3.30 V & B, O nomen lesu (Philips). GETTAL.

WESTET'S CRAPPEL. City Bond, ECE: 9,45 HC:

11 Mounting, Ear Dr G Earting.

WESTHAINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist).

SWI: 10 UN Service of celebration, Rev Dr D

English; 6.30 Festival of Praise, Rev Dr J Hale. ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC!: 9 HC: 1) M. Almighty and everlasting Gpb (Globurg). The Breisti, 5.30 Choral Each, Missa Acterna Christi Munesa (Palestrina), The Bernet.

ST BRIDGES, Floor Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch. Let' sear-bed chiefs (Crotch), Carnon 3 Oanes: 6.30 Chocal E. The World's Jole (Buch, Eev.) Burloo. TOTAL TOTAL STATE OF SCOTIAND STATES, STATES, SEE THE WORD IS INCUSTRED TO SEE STATES, SEE ST GEORGES. Hanover Square. Wi: 8.30 HC: 11 S Each, Missa Brevis (Darine), Bearl quorum via (Sambord, The Recor. ST LAMESS, Garickhyme, EC4: 10.30 S Euch, John Faul, Bearl. ST LIBEES, Cheiser, SW3: 8 HC; 10:30 MP & HC. O God thou art my God (Purcell), Rev S Wasson; 6:30 E. Bethlehem Down (Warlock), Watson; 6.30 E. Bernienen Down (warden). Ven T Rapitael. ET MARK'S, Royanto Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC;

Diones.

ST MARGARETS, Westminster, 5W1: 11 S
Guch, Cason D Gray.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-STELDS, WC2: 8 HC: 9.45
Ench. J Resemble: 11.30 Visitors, The Vicar,
2.45 Chiusse, Rev D Foot 5 Choral E: 6.30 og. Rev & Schubenhan

BT MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1:9,10,7 LM; [1] RM. Missa quarti tone (Victoria), Fr & Scott; 6 Solemn E & Solemn B. TT MARTTHE TRAIN. Primites fills a HC 10.30 Parish Buch, Missa in honoran Sancti Dominic (Rubbra): Cannie Domino (Montread), Rev Diones 6 EP. ST MICHAELS, Chester Square, SWI: 10.15' Children: 11 HC, Rev C Guinness; 7 Informal Service, Sav C Marnham. SETTON, BY C MARTHAM.

ST PAULS, Wilton Place, SWI: 8,9 HC; 11 8 huch Missa point de porce (Lausus), Hymn to 5: Peter (Britten), Rev K Joyce.

ST PETERS, Eaton Square, SWI: 11, Missa Aima Redemptorts Marter (Victoria), When Jesses our Lord (Mendelssohn), Preliade 8 Pugge in Di Schmid. Pra Chidwick.

ST STEPTIEMS, Cloures on Road, SWI: 8,9 LM: 11 SM, Pastorel-Messe EV-140 (Mendelssohn), Canon C Colven.

CHAPEL ROVAL OF ST PRITER AD VINCUIA. (Menaelssoni), Canon C Coiven.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PRIER AD VINCULA.

HA Tower of London: 9.15 HC: 11 M 8
Sermon, Amighny God which by the heading of

a star (Bull), Chron J Murphy.

CHAPEL ROYAL St. James's Palaces 8-30 HC

11.15 MB. Gloria in Encelais (Weelles), Bev G CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Polace: 3.30 HC: 11 M. In pice (Blitheman); 3.30 E. O Lord, the Maker (Joubert), Lord, thou hast been our refuge (Balistow) retuge (Baltstow)

SROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street,
WI: 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Haydin), When
Jesus Gur Lord (Mendelssohn), Sonata no.1.
(Mendelssohn), Rev S Hobbs.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11
M: Lo star-led chiefs (Grouch); 12-30 HC, The
Chaplain. Chaplain.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Piece Innet R.D.) HC.

11.75 MF, Collegium Regale (Floweris), Surget
illuminare (Palestrina), The Master.

CHARDS CRAPEL Wellingtom Barracks. SWI:

11 M. What is a star (German Curoll, Omnes of

Saba (Houdh Land, The Chaplain: 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, Selfe S Buch, Shanford in C. Quest

pastores (Journey, 1897 C French.)

TRADE: 0171 481 1982

FAX: 0171 481 9313

TRUSTRE ACTS

JUSESPH HOUSTON see of 109 Strondway, New January, New January, June Cheeker, See on the 7th August 1998. Particularly to Flucks Store, 1998. Particularly to Flucks Store, 1500-150, 25 St. July Strong, 1 March Labour 1827 4077 Justing 12th July 1

BMD'S: 0171 782 7272 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN DEATHS

For while some are incapable of marriage because they were born to, or were made to by men, there are others who have renounced marriage for the sake of the knogon.

Maithew 19: 12 (RES), BIRTHS DEATES

JENNINGS - On Friday 12th January, to Nicola (née Goodey) and lan, a son. Dominic Charles BIRTHS The Perform Hospital, to Erics and Citye, a Department KAPP - On 5th January 1996, to Debra (née 122bes) and Trever. & son. James Thomas.

CARMICHAEL - On 11th January, to Elizabeth (née Étilott) and William, a son, Thomas William Edward. 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Lesley (bid Hyprical Dir., a bession daughter, Katherine Molly. MEALING - On January 8th 1996, to Clemency (née Molan) and William, a son, William Heary.

EVERETT ALEXANDER - Ou 3191 December, to Sarab Everett and Conel Alexander, a daughter, Elepa MUROZ-ECHANIZ - On Hospital, to Irene and Samuel a son, Juan Alvaro. Folicidade - Cortesta. FLOOD - On January 9th, to Peter and Deborah, a daughter, Pippa Alice

Petra (nie Bray) and Robb, a son, William Thomas, a brother in Missey.

POWELL - On Sch Jenosty, to Catherine and Hope, it 406.

AMOSLEON - Oz 24th December of Quest Francis Houghter, King's Lynn, to Joseph Marrison and Robert, a daughter, Fen Xinn Arme. STEWART - On 30th December 1995, to Diana and Ron, a beautylar son.

and the second of the second o

BOWER - babel Same aged 92 widow of Claude preceding of Claude preceding of Derche Houseastern January at 12 hoom at Manageme Christol. Fasting Houses only but donadons 8 desired in aid of Cancer Research May be sent to Colly J. Close (F.D.), 18 Samery May.

CARRY - On January 10th in Markhard. Most. Mastelli. Leatherd and 7th Resided of Jose. Diper of Counts and Jose, and strendisher of Counts. Burtly and lightle.

CHETHAM - On Thursday Jenuary 11th, at The West Water General Heaptist. Carmarthen, Agne of Brouwrdd. Carmarthen, beloved wife of Jones. Elizabeth and John and loving grandmether of Jones. Elizabeth and John and ioving grandmother of Bether and Schaetten. Public Bether and Schaetten. Public Bether and Schaetten. Public Bether and Schaetten. Narberth. Pembrokeshire at 2 pm. Constitute to Cancer Refield Macmallan Fund c/o Lane End. Browydd, Carmarthen, Dyfed.

CLARKE - Miss May, of Willingdon, Eastbourne, pasefully on 9th January. Funeral Service on Wednesday 17th January 2.45 pm at Willingdon Canada, followed by streets interment at Ocklyage

DEATES HARBITTS - On Wednesday Jagmany 10th, Leonard Donglas peanefully at Rash Court Nutrains Hume. Wallingford, believed inspand of Beryl, devoted lands of the American Statement Service will have place at St Margaret's Court. Suprant Thursday January 18th at 10.45 am, followed by private cremation at Reading Gitty), much loved infant daughter of Robert and Care de smoldly b be given a 10th January. No flowers please. If dustred, doughter to The Californ's Hought, Milken, Cambridge, Funeral at Broad Hillian Church. 2 pm. Wednesdar 17th January.

proceeding at least on Prices
12th January 1996.
Geoffichy Edward Festeroff.
Only Law of Hughy School,
beloved husband of Collieand Anny loved Anny of
Ecchant and January Private
creenation. Magnetial Service
to be supposed labor.

BOWDON BRATH - David Daily Prajectly at his home in Ireland on Sunday Jamosry 7th 1996. We be forever missed by Sophia and Harry and his many friends and relatives. Memorial Service at St John's Church. Ludwell. Sabrday Jamosry 20th and afterwards at Charitan Visage Isas. No flowers by request. Donations to the Richmond Fellowship c/o Mercheld and Haptividge. Ridgemount, Melbury Abes. Shaffeshury. Detait SP7 OSU. DEFERWOOD - On 10th Jenuary, parciately star as bergie Debt status such 18 near, Dr. Raymond, belowed insubant of Jenuite and feer lather of Sarah, Peter and Polly. Funeral at St. Paut's Church, Worldingston. In Manuary at 2 pm., Familip Rowers only pienes, but decentions if without in its Paut's Courch.

Avenue. Caversham, Resdire.

Resdire.

Monspriel D. Rev.

1996. retired principal character of Ramps.

Church on Wednesday January 17th at 12 non.

Mass at St Anner Capacite Church on Wednesday January 17th at 12 non.

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Manuary 17th at 12 non.

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Maryate. CT9 1NH, let:

(01843) 223634.

LEGS - On January 9th 1996,

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Leve F.R.C.O. G., grenty leved

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Tatly of Vield. Service at Poole Crematorium on

N.S.P.C.C. to Tapper Funeral Service. 32/34

Parkatone Read, Poole,

BH15 2PG, let: (01202)

673164.

20.45 am. followed by private cremation at Reading Crematorium. Family flowers cult, donations in Kirstin Royle Memorial That C/o Cirii H. Lovegove

DEATHS MAYON - Preserve Leven much leved (ather of Charlette and the grandlather of Associa and Louise, the procedury of Louise, the procedury of Louise, the procedury of Louise, the procedure will be at the Last Charlet. Onliver Creek Last, NW11, at 10.45 age on Priday 19th January-Flowers to W.G. Millers Funeral Directors, 95 Easter Road, NI 23J or 2 Centre Road, NI 23J or 2 Centre Road, NI 23J or 2 Centre Road, NI 25J or 2 Centre Road, NI 25TF.

Trust C/O Cyris H. Larregrove Planerst Directors, 58 Briants Avantae. Gaversham. Reading. Reversham. Reading. Reversham. Reading. Reversham. Reading. Reversham. Reading. Reversham Reversham and the Reversham Reversham and the Reversham Reversham and the Reversham Re James V. Flowers has be sent to A.W. Lyon. Robin Hoos France, Both House Street. Nottingham. tel: (0118) 9600878.

Palli - Penculolly on 120 Juningy, Sour days before her 1900s by theby, Knibben her 100m bytinsker, Rashisan Aguses. Past Country Createnan Bedinoshker W. J. Babrand daughter of the sim Richard Erpant and Rapten Pain of Rashis and Runch. Badforchildre. Mach loved counts and state. Francis Gurring and States. Correspondent March Jamesery at Apra. No However at her revewest but domations if some at the state of the States and Stat

Planting Tip - Dr. Needing, January 11th 1996 Oxford, fermerly Wicklow, Dublin and the li-celes (deceased) and maof May, Balovet hutband of Peggy (Schossed) and much leved sather of Justin and Hugh, grandfather of Rebessa, Rachel and Fiste. Funcil Sayvice at Onked Crestatorium on Thursday 18th Justiney at 12 15 pm. Fantly (Towers only, suppagane in TE, John Rancistic Hospital of A.W. Brutes, 29 Rogers Street, Bustinestiney, Onland.

DEATHS

MATTER to breaky great parties bell of the TEMPLES ACC. Lies the day payed between a CLAS against or as PATERIOST to the ESTATE of any of the decision of the payed to the decision. THEOREAST — Margot, on 12th
January at Moheat. Thattie,
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MEMORIAL SERVICES RAILTY - Sydney D. A pleaserial Meeting 197 Worldo to be held of Princip Rome, Engles Reed, London NW1 221 (apports System Station). The day 30th

IN MEMORIAN --

obtained will be distributed by the partitional "quarwoodsfiften quessed the partition entitled therein hereing request dealy to the colors and hydroxy of wyloth man here but the hydroxy of wyloth man HOLLAND HATTHERY MERCY has at 400 huntur Very, hereino, herein, and 400 Mint Agris 1986. Fairettenium in Benton-Laurit State. MARTEN ROMERT LANG of Ow-don Plat, 30 Owners Home Read Linden NVOS Regred Accommend and as 36 Suphysics 1998. For Schlow St. Hondelfor & Leyen Hanner & Henn, 14 Planyer System, Landels W.L. (IEE. Day USF: School W.L. (IEE. Day USF: School St. V. (IEE. Day Osters halver 15 Jahren 1996.

PUBLIC NOTICES

TRUSTEE LCTS

QUINCHIED AND GLACYO MANY Into of GY Ridgeon End Reed, Estear Green, Amelica. Sarke dies en 12th Mericules 1994, Psycholiste to Disary Rechant is Mesignal Substantia

willie Eller Visit his of S. Shejhards Late Cavataban Heighty Beating, Burindays date in 18th August 19th, Parjudges to Sinyant of Shepanet Street, Panding, Burindays and 18th Panding, Burindays ROS 18th before 2001 March 1976. The Chirtly Consequential Processing Systems and order Appointing Conference Conference and Conference Confere PUBLIC NOTICES

TRUSTEE ACTS

PUBLIC NOTICES IN THE HIGH COURTS No. 6901 of 1995 OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION

COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF THE EX-LANDS P.L.C. - and -IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1965

NOTICE is hereby given that a Patition was on 3rd January 1986 presented to Her Mejesty's High Court of Justice for continuation of the reduction of the capital of the above named Company from 222,560,000 to 211,277,263 as part of a School of Arrangament. AND NOTICE is further given that the said Petition is directed to be heard before Mr Register Buckley at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL, on Wednesday 245-January 1998.

Any creditor or shareholder of the said Company dealing to copples the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Coursel for that purpose. A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such parace requiring the same by the undermentione of the regulated charge for the stone.

Howard Kannady Percourt House 19 Calvardish Square Landon WIA 2/04 Part Offic Lands Solicitors for the above named company FOR SALE 75E7A 1

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WHOUNCEMEN'TS YOUR WILL SEALT

Signer The La

IE children's store of Daniel Neal & ns was an old family business ting back to 1837, the year that seen Victoria came to the throne. It erted as a bespoke shoemaker in rkeley Square in London. In the next neration a strong-minded Miss Gow im Thurso in Scotland married the cond Daniel Neal and they had a ge family. This led to their becoming ecialists in children's shoes.

· Lawrence Edward Neal, her grandn, was named after John Lawrence, ceroy of India, 1863-69. As evidence the upward mobility of the family. s parents hoped that he might make career in the Indian Civil Service. ungs, however, did not work out lite as they had originally intended. is father became consumptive and oked to his old friend, W.G. ishbrooke — Headmaster of St ave's Grammar School (then in iuthwark) - to educate his son. The ung Neal did well and this led to his nning a scholarship to St John's, dord, where he obtained a first in assical Moderations in 1916.

But his studies were interrupted by e First World War. He was commismed into the 1st Battalion, the iltshire Regiment, and was sent to e trenches. He was twice wounded, ice in the head by a sniper's bullet, hich very probably saved his life as : was out of harm's way for the rest of e Battle of the Somme. He returned the Western Front towards the end the war and used to say that, out of a oup of 13 friends, only he and mneth Lindsay (who later became an Pl survived

Both he and Lindsay fell in love with e same young woman poet from lasgow but it was Neal who married an Guthrie-Smith in 1918. However, I three contrived to remain lifelong

At the end of the First World War he ined Daniel Neal, then controlled by 1 uncle, and as "founder's kin" was opointed first managing director and en chairman just before the start of ie Second World War. During the iterwar period he became one of the under members of Political and conomic Planning (PEP) along with asil Blackett, Max Nicholson and rael Sieff.

Probably as a consequence of getting nown to Whitehall through this think-tank" involvement, he became a nember of the Sea Fish Commission of ne United Kingdom, 1933-36. In 1932 ie published his first book, Retailing ınd the Public.

LAWRENCE NEAL

والمراب والمراب والمتران والمراب والمنافي والمنافي والمناف والمتاح والصورات والمناف



Too old to be called up in 1939, he eventually joined the Civil Service and was appointed Deputy Secretary of the newly formed Ministry of Town and Country Planning. Taking care of the family business over the weekend and in the evenings, he was a fire-watcher on the rooftops of Portman Square

during the London Blitz of 1940. His Whitehall experience led to his being appointed vice-chairman of the Crawley New Town Corporation from 1947 to 1956. He found this immensely stimulating and useful,

It was in the postwar period that Daniel Neal, already well known as the outlitters of green uniforms to Cheltenham Ladies' College, really took off. Branches in addition to those in Portman Square, Kensington High

Street and Cheltenham were opened in Bournemouth, Bristol, Exeter and Birmingham.

It was a big expansion and numerous famous public schools became Daniel Neal's clients as well as some of the earliest comprehensives. Many products of the postwar "bulge" may still recall visiting these shops and having their shoes expertly fitted and then checked in the X-ray machines with their fascinating ability to show the wiggling of one's toes.
In 1959 Neal bought Treasure Cot,

another well known family business with its main shop in Oxford Street. It specialised in upmarket baby clothes and nursery equipment and thus was a valuable adjunct to Daniel Neal. whose own business started with

Lawrence Neal became a member of the Council of the Retail Distributors' Association and was its chairman in 1949. This led to his representing the the employers' side of the Drapery, Outfitting and Footwear Group of the Retail Distributive Trades on the Joint Industrial Council, serving as chairman in 1941.

He was a founder member of the British Institute of Management and belonged to the Twenty Club and also to the Winnowing Club. These latter were dining clubs representing the owners of many of the family-run stores, both large and small, in London and in the provinces and were a vital link between shopkeepers all over the country. He wrote the History of the Twenty Club from its founding in 1897

In the early 1960s, partly through the spread of family shareholdings, it became obvious that it might be prudent to consider selling the business as a going concern. In terms of its working philosophy the firm of Daniel Neal shared much in common with the John Lewis Partnership, and Lawrence Neal was delighted when in 1963 the latter became its new owners. The name of Daniel Neal was retained at least for a period to denote a specialist shop maintained at the back of John Lewis's own big Oxford Street store in Cavendish Square,

Undeterred by his "retirement", Neal was quickly involved in other activities and became the first chairman of the Furniture and Timber Trade Industry Training Board and. after this, of the Industrial Training Board's Pension Fund.

Throughout his career he impressed all his colleagues and rivals with his complete integrity. This may have been the product of his strict Nonconformist upbringing. When he first went to the Western Front in 1916, his mother wrote him a touching letter to say she felt a cigarente might help but hoped he would not succumb to "drink". He was never allowed to go to the theatre until he was 18 years old.

But in himself he was by no means austere. He had a wonderful gift for being able to make younger people feel totally at ease. As a result, he had a wide circle of friends and was constantly in demand as a companion to theatres and restaurants. Sunday lunch at the Hurlingham Club, with the greater family around him. became an institution.

He was twice married. His first wife Jean Guthrie-Smith died in 1949 and in 1952 he married as his second wife Beatrice Scheibner, widow of Walter Payne. She died in 1972. His eldest son was killed in Normandy in 1944 and he is survived by the remaining son and daughter of his first marriage.

ERIC HEBBORN

Eric Hebborn, art forger, died on January II aged 61. He was born on March 20, 1934.

ERIC HEBBORN was an excellent draughtsman and painter in his own right, but his principal career was as a self-confessed forger of Old Master drawings. His deceptions on the art establishment were carried out while he was acting as a dealer, working between Rome and London, in the 1960s and 1970s. The truth - as far as the truth could be established - about his forging practices came to light in his autobiography, Drawn to Trouble, published in 1991.

Hebborn's revelations spread further confusion among dealers, galleries and museums, although many experts had harboured doubts about Hebborn for years. One said: To the trained eye every artist has a signature. Hebborn's is his cross-hatching." Geraldine Norman, then sale room correspondent of The Times, published an exposé un Hebborn in 1978. Brian Sewell, as long ago as 1964, had flown to Rome to confront him, and to forbid

him ever to approach Chris-

But Hebborn had kept up the deception remarkably easily with others for many years, and claimed to have his drawings housed in the best gaileries in the world, including the Metropolitan in New York and the British Museum in London. He did this by a variety of ingenious methods. He sold his own work to dealers alongside originals, and forged drawings covering so many different styles and periods that no one expert saw all of them. By the early 1980s, London dealers had grown wary of doing business directly with Hebborn, so he employed middlemen to ensure that his drawings could not be

traced back to him. Eric Hebborn was born into a large family, the son of a grocer's assistant in South Kensington. Even as a child, he was naturally destructive and, after attempting to burn down his school, he was sent to Borstal, and then brought up by foster parents. He also showed exceptional

ability at drawing. He gained



a place at an art school in Chelmsford in 1949, and five years later at the Royal Academy Schools. The 1950s were brilliant years for Hebborn, and he won a string of prizes, including the Prix de Rome. During the early 1960s he raught drawing in several British universities, but by 1966 he was back in Rome, and he made that city his base for the rest of his life. He had shows, under his own name, in America and Britain,

The tales of Hebborn's early adventures in the world of forgery, like most of the colourful stories he told about his life, could never be authenticated. Hebborn's friend Sir Anthony Blunt, then Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures, told him in 1969: "The trouble is you can't draw, Eric." Hebborn retaliated by purchasing 18th-century paper, old ink, and reproducing a "Piranesi". The drawing - Roman Port - was later sold to the Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Copenhagen. But experts there, when later confronted with the Hebborn story, claimed to be entirely happy with the drawing's authenticity.

Emboldened by his success, Hebborn began to work on fakes on a regular basis, producing something like one week over the next twenty years. He found he was able to 'age" paper, and to reproduce antique canvas and old inks with such homely materials as olive oil, honey and flour. His working methods were described in Il Manuale del Falsario (The Forger's Manual), published recently in

He then took his drawings. and occasionally oils. London, mixed together with other authentic drawings which he had bought in Italy. There they were sold to London dealers. Hebborn always claimed that it was these dealers who authenticated the pictures, and sold them on as the genuine article. He never told them that his drawings were anything other than being executed "in the style" of a certain arrist. Those who wished to believe that they were buying a small masterpiece at a relatively modest price needed little encouragement. He later claimed to be the author of a Brueghel housed in the Metropolitan in New York, and a Van Dyck in the British Museum.

After his exposure as a fraud in the late 1970s. Hebborn did most of his dealings with crooked dealers. working through a hotel in Rome. He lived in an old villa in Anticoli Corrada, thirty miles from the capital, and was understandably reluctant to show work-in-progress to visitors. But in later years the urge to have his talent recognised by a larger audience finally prevailed, and resulted in the biography, Drawn to Trouble. His death was, like his life, mysterious and melodramatic. He was found in his studio in Rome, collapsed with severe head injuries, and later died from them.

He remained unmarried.

PROFESSOR SIR HAROLD BAILEY

Sir Harold Balley, FBA Professor of Sanskrit at Cambridge University, 1938-67, died on January Il aged 96. He was born on December 16, 1899.

, SCHOLAR with a profound rasp of the ancient indoanian languages, Harold ailey drew his great strength s a scholar from his ability to se documents written in alnost all the other languages of entral Asia, including Tibetn and Chinese, both ancient nd medieval. Thus he was ble to bring unmatched nowledge to bear on the mass f documents recovered by arious expeditions from the esert sands of this vast area. i this country he was regard-I as the most distinguished rientalist of his generation, ideed perhaps of any since ie death of the 18th-century ersian scholar and jurist Sir /illiam Jones in 1794. Harold Walter Bailey was orn at Devizes in Wiltshire.

From there, when he was ten, his parents emigrated to farm Western Australia. The boy's schooldays were now over and he was set to work on a farm, deep in the outback he should have developed as he did in such an unpromising environment seems little short of miraculous.

With no teachers and precious little encouragement from his family, but impelled by an overmastering passion for knowledge, he taught himself, with such meagre materials as he could lay his hands on, to read Greek, Latin, Italian, Spanish, French, German and Russian.

Further, in the six years between 1913 and 1919 he acquainted himself with Arabic, Syriac, Hebrew, Turkish, Persian, Hindustani, Tamil, Sinhalese and Japanese, for the last of which which the newspaper wrappings of imported goods from the local store provided reading material. When in 1919 he gained access to some Sanskrit, Pali and Avestan books, he was able to lay the foundations of his life's work.

In 1922 Bailey entered the stern Australia, where he read Classics, and later took his MA with a thesis on A study of religion in the dramas of Eurlpides. After a year's teaching in a school and a year as a tutor in Latin at the university, a Hackett Studentship (the first to be awarded) in 1927 brought him to Oxford.

There, under F. W. Thomas, he took a first in Sanskrit. Avestan and Comparative Philology. Finally he was awarded a DPhil for a study of the Middle Persian text of the Bundahishn.

Two years later he was appointed to the newly-founded lectureship in Iranian studies in the School of Oriental Studies in London, where he continued to teach for eight years, adding also Armenian to the scope of his teaching. In 1936 he was elected to the chair of Sanskrit at Cambridge and shortly afterwards to a fellowship at Queens' College.

Though faced at first with a during the Second World War. with years of exacting work away from Cambridge for the Foreign Office, he continued the task which, begun in London, was to be his major activity for more than 30 years. This was the decipherment and editing of a vast mass of manuscripts originating in the trackless wastes of Central Asia and written in an indian script in a Middle Iranian language termed by some Saka, but by Bailey Khotanese from the district where the material originated, Khotan. This area, in Chinese Turkestan, is rich in the history of the Middle Ages. Many of these materials had

been brought back to Britain

by the Budapest-born but

British-naturalised scholar

and explorer, Sir Aurel Stein, in three Central Asian expeditions he made between 1900 and 1916.

These collections were deposited in London at the itish Museum and the India Office Library, in Paris, Berlin. Stockholm and Leningrad. They were published by Bailey in eight volumes, Khotanese Texts 1-1711 (1945-85). There were also his editions of Khotanese Buddhist Texts (1951, 2nd edition 1981) and Saka Documents I-IV (1960-

The results of his far-ranging and profound knowledge were seen not only in these volumes, but in a vast series of articles in learned journals, each characterised by the same width and profundity of knowledge and mericulous scholarship, and dealing not only with the linguistic and historical problems of Central Asia, but increasingly with the help which the newly-won knowledge of Iranian gave to the interpretation of the ancient Indian texts, especially the Rigveda. A volume of studies in his honour, presented to him on his 70th birthday. included a bibliography of his own writings to that date, more than 160 items, but far

exceeded since. He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1944, president of the Philological Society in 1948 and knighted in 1960. He was also president of the Royal Asiatic Society, 1964-67, and was a corresponding member of the Danish, Swedish and Norwegian Academies as well as being an



honorary member of many foreign Oriental and linguistic

societies. Among undergraduate students only the best could take full advantage of the lectures to which he always gave long hours of preparation. But to the advanced student and the research worker he was an inspiring teacher. Scholars, old and young, came from all over the world to his rooms in Oueens' to consult and read

with him. Nor were his interests by any means confined to the ancient Orient. His library contained a shelf of books on Dante; he was an authority on the Arthurian legends. One rainy day, visiting a friend in Wales, he spoke at length on Welsh philology and antiqui-

ties. After his departure one of the company remarked: "I did not know that Cambridge had a chair of Celtic." He was blessed with a

photographic memory, and friends recall his dismay at having on one occasion to look up a word in a dictionary for a second time. As a bachelor, he lived in college and played a full part in its life.

Bailey was no mean exponent of the violin - again selftaught in childhood with the help only of a visit from a travelling teacher once a year and for many years he was the leader of a quarter which met in Queens' College. Many generations of undergraduates were made welcome in rooms overflowing with books from floor to ceiling. Admired and loved by all who came into contact with him, he was a man of surpassing modesty. and nothing surprised him more than the honours which learned bodies all over the world showered upon him.

After retiring from his chair in 1967 he maintained his close ties with his college and with the university. He placed his vast library at the disposal of the Cambridge headquarters of the Ancient India and Iran Trust, of which he was chairman.

He continued his researches with renewed vigour, still producing a steady flow of learned articles and now concentrating his efforts for the most part on the lexicographical study of the Iranian elements of the vocabulary of Khotanese. This bore fruit in his Dictionary of Khotan Saka (1979) and in his book The Culture of the Sakas in Ancient Iranian Khotan 1931).

He remained a bachelor.

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THE LONDON ESPERANTO CLUB

Sinjor Di stariĝu, Malamikojn pelu Kaj faligu! Pistu politikon Venku friponajon, Al ci ni konfidu: Dio nin savu!

These verses are not a peculiar form of Rumanian, to which they bear a dim facial resemblance, but the second stanza of "God save the King" as he rendered in the last and perhaps the most rational of the universal languages, which are to turn the Tower of Babel upside down, and we must say that "Sinjor" Dio" and "frioponajon" (knavish tricks) greatly arride us. They were performed at the "Dua Esperantista Jarkumveno", otherwise the second annual meeting of the London Esperanto Club, at Essex-hall, last night . . .

The club has over £50 in the bank. and is going to contribute two of them to the international meeting of

ON THIS DAY

January 13, 1905

This light-hearted report suggests no great confidence in the society's future, but half a century later, according to estimated figures in the Encyclopaedia Britannica, a quarter of a million people in 32 countries were using this best-known of artificial languages.

Esperantists to be held at Boulogne from August 3 to August 13, the whole of which you can attend for two francs ("du

frankoj"). The entertainment consisted of diverse performances in Esperanto, includinig three items from a recent translation of The Tempest by Mr. Motteau, the most zealous contributor being Miss Schäfer who appeared successively as reciter, quartettist, solo-

ist, and actress. "Tono Lumpkino" was a

prominent performer in one of the selections along with Sinjoro Hardknstello. There was a bit from Henry IV, the address to sleep, "Ho dormo", and there was to have been a coon song "Amerika 'Coon' Lulu ho cara Lulilu", the transalation of which we leave to the intelligence of our readers. but to our intense grief it was omitted. In some ways Esperanto is a most

annoying language. For one thing it has no exceptions. Now a language without exceptions is like a human being without faults, a sort of prig among languages. Again, all the terminations are standardized, and all the accents are on the penultimate. The result is monotony, as was evidenced by the speeches and songs last night. But there is no doubt about the enthusiasm of this body of Esperantists (ne estas dubio de la entusiasmo de tui Esperantistoj") and we hope they will keep it up. "kai ni esperos ko ili keepos it up"). How easy the language is to learn is shown by the amount we seem to have picked up since we started writing this article.

NEWS

Thatcher fails to unnerve Major

■ John Major responded to Baroness Thatcher's broadside against his Government by telling her that he would not be budged from the course on which he had embarked. Rejecting her calls for a more right-wing agenda and her assault on One Nation Toryism, he said: "I will not be pushed off what I believe Page 1 to be right"...

Ministers to flout EU game law

Ministers are set to defy a new European Union regulation that would wreak havoc on the shooting of game birds such as pheasant and partridge. Landowners will breathe a sigh of relief after the Government indicated that it will not enforce a ban on a drug that prevents wasting diseases in game birds....... Page 1

Drug appeal

Helen Cousins, who won a fight for life after taking Ecstasy, asked young people to avoid a "a dance

'Stalker' cleared

Bernard Quinn, the obsessive stalker of the Princess Royal, was cleared of the charge that a breach of the peace was likely to be occasioned by him ...

Battle of Newbury The Battle of Newbury began

when the police arrested 34 bypass protesters and contractors felled more than 300 trees Pages I, 7 Euro-sceptic anger

Tory Euro-sceptics were furious after the Government decided to sign up again with the European

Court of Human Rights Page 2 Laser lifesaver A laser gun treatment for coronary disease that involves shooting

duced to the NHS Page 6

Last laugh

Politicians, royals and other celebrities are bracing themselves for a final savaging from the puppets of Spitting Image, the longest-running satirical TV show Page 9

Mineshaft graves

Allegations that up to 8,000 bodies may be buried in mineshafts in Bosnia guarded by Serb soldiers have been passed to the UN war crimes tribunai....

Hostage offer

Two Russian politicians said that they would volunteer to be hostages under demands made by the gummen holding hostages on the Chechen border....Page II

Clinton defiance

Hillary Clinton flatly denied the various allegations that are threatening to engulf her Page 13

Defending buffalo

American Indians have gone to holes in the heart is being introcourt to try to stop a buffalo hunt in New Mexico...

Morocco awaits its 'magnificent man

Marrakesh was full of hot air but none of it was in Richard Branson's balloon. The millionaire adventurer postponed his arrival in Morocco for 72 hours but that did not stop the build up of publicity and a carnival atmosphere for the start of his roundthe-world balloon flight attempt.....



Finalists for the BBC Young Musicians of the Year competition practising yesterday in Birmingham

OPINION

A greedy bird: John Major is the only political leader of a major European country able to predict that people's disposable incomes will rise this year and that unemployment will go on falling..... Page 21 Up and away: In spite of their astonishing modern technology the balloonists are still fulfilling man's old dream, to win, to circumnavigate the

THE PAPERS Mr Clinton proved that presidents are generally better off for these extended encounters

globe, to fly Page 21

- Washington Post Whatever the reasons for the President's trip to Bosnia, it is unlikely it will be very uplift-- Washington Times

COLUMN TO

on Jonkins: I have the words in my notebook: "He is gold, pure gold." The words were Lady Thatcher's of John

Roger Scruton: She was uttering what would be recognised as the philosophy of conservatism by anyone who had bothered to read the Tory classics. Page 20

Lawrence Neal, chairman of Daniel Neal & Sons, 1939-63; Eric Hebborn, art forger; Sir Harold Bailey, Professor of Sanskrit at Cambridge University, 1938-67 Page 23

TETES ! Sir John Nott on the Thatcher speech; stakeholder society; hell. Page 21

Bellish Gas: The company is

committed to re-negotiating the £40 billion of take-or-pay contracts with North Sea gas Page 25 uroducers... Electricity: One of the directors of Manweb, who shared a controversial £4 million nay-off after being taken over, has found another job in the industry....... Page 25 Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 2.4 to 3657.3. Sterling's index rose from 83.0 to 83.3 after a

Art for all: Recession has

rise from \$1.5440 to \$1.5472.

and from DM2.2212 to

DM2,2291

made dealers more anxious to woo ordinary buyers; Richard Morrison on why talent is often smothered ... Page 17.

Footbalk Ali five leading contenders to succeed Terry Venables as England coach have announced that they do not Cricket: Dickie Bird, who has umpired more Tests than anyone else, will stand in his last one at Lord's in

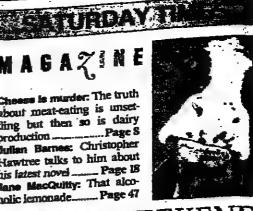
....Page 48 June . Rugby union: Harlequins announced a three-year sponsorship by NEC, the Japanese communications company. Dancing girls will be a feature of games......Page 48 Tennis: Greg Rusedski, the British No I, has been drawn against Boris Becker in the

100 years of British: Looking back and on the road ahead.

Australian Open......Page 42

SATURDAY JANUARY 13 1996

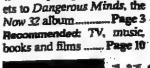
about meat-eating is unsetthing but then so is dairy Page 8 production lullan Barnes: Christopher Hawtree talks to him about his latest novel ____ Page 18 Jane MacQuitty: That alcoholic lemonade...... Page 47



Elizabeth's story: A royal marriage - the first part of Sarah Bradford's portrait of the Queen ____. Pages 1-5 Travel: Newlywed in the Caribbean; Turkish simplicity; Disney's America. Pages \$11 Books: French intelligence; Dodie Smith: a publishing entrepreneur Pages 12, 13

10 15 The weekly magazine for young Times readers Keep on Trekkin': happy birthday to one of the world's

most popular science fictionPage 6 series ... Win: Sony PlayStations, tickets to Dangerous Minds, the Now 32 album....



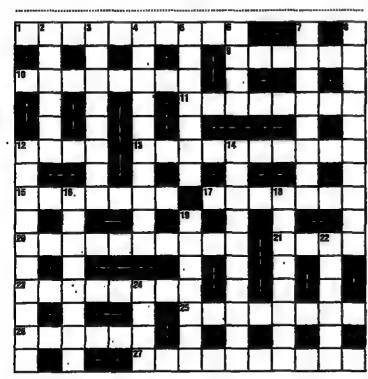


The seven-day guide to television and radio Cover story: Aretha Franklin. Mahalia Jackson and Rosetta Tharpe illuminate the history of gospel in Omnibus, Monday, BBCl, 10.40pm The House: A year in the life of the Royal Opera House begins on Tuesday, BBC2, 9.30pm

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,063

A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberiour single mate whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London El 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



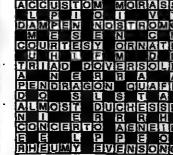
ACROSS

- I Wall socket for a juice extractor
- 9 Loose overcoat's woolly rustle (6). 10 Pisa, associated with nice original
- Roman baths (8). II Physician fighting onset of malaria, with moderate temperature
- 12 That woman, first of all among the gods (4).
- 13 Crazy family that's likely to cause an upset (6.4). 15 Inquisitive about, say, a bouquet
- 17 Congenial Russian relations (7). 20 Invest in gripping film (6-4).
- 21 Remaining on top (4). 23 Fugitive has to struggle gem (8).
- 25 Keep principal reserves at home 26 Etcher with an eye for an opening
- 27 Small jumper found in old teebox? (4-6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20.057

DOWN

- 2 Tranquilliser one swallowed is holding up work (6).
- 3 Amplify output from a celesta (8). 4 Early collectable item girl put on
- 5 Country importing one hundred antelope (7).
- 6 Gather food (4). 7 Assailant with access to the king
- 8 Concert-goer who likes being at the front? (10). 12 Horse with resilience in gymnas
- tic feat (10). 14 Secure with language? Women have it at their fingertips (4,6).
- 16 Local journalist stumped by impostor (8). 18 Sliced bread poorest could possibly afford, under a penny once
- 19 Privileged chap not subject to tax on island (7).
- 22 Remove from duty (6). 24 The ones that win in court (4).
 - Solution to Puzzle No 20,062



LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: J S Wills, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire; J D Dixon Shaffield; E Wright, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria: D T Bentham, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, J Freeman, Altrincham, Cheshire.

TIMES WEATHERCALL Greeter London.. Kent,Surrey,Suseek...

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Dorset, Hante & ICW...

Devon & Correct

Wits, Glouca, Avon, Sor

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Beds, Herts & Essex

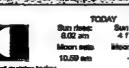
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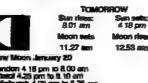
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Last quarter today Landon 4 17 pm to 8.04 am Bristol 4.27 pm to 8.04 am Edinburgh 4.06 pm to 8.36 am Manchester 4 16 pm to 8.36 am Penzamos 4.44 pm to 8.17 am



HIGHEST & LOWEST

☐ General: England and Wales will start cloudy and mainly dry but rain will spread into Comwail during this moming, then on to northwest and western England and Wales by this

turn wet for a time this attempoon. After early rain in eastern Scotland, further rain will reach the west later. London, SE England, E Anglie, Central S England, E Midbands, E England, Channel Isles, Central N, NE England: mainly dry, some brief surny intervals. Wind South to South-

evening, in the east it should stay dry, and in places there could be some sunahine as well. Northern Ireland will

west maderate to fresh. Mild. Max 1 I C (52F). D W Middlands, NW England, Lake District, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney: cloudy and mainly dry, becoming wat in the

evening. Wind southwest, becoming south moderate to fresh. Mex 11C

Page 28

SW England, S Wales, N Wales, Isle of Men, SW Scotland: dry at first, rain later. Wind south fresh to strong, Max 10C (50F). Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland: dry at first, rain later. Wind light and variable, becoming south moderate to fresh. Max 9C (48F).

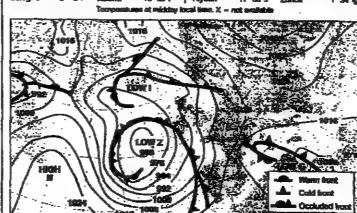
☐ Shetland: rain at first, dry feter. Wind southeast strong, becoming southwest fresh. Max 7C (45F). ■ N Ireland: after a dry start rain. moderate, becoming south moderate to fresh. Max 8C (46F).

Outlook: rain is expected to remain in western districts, while the

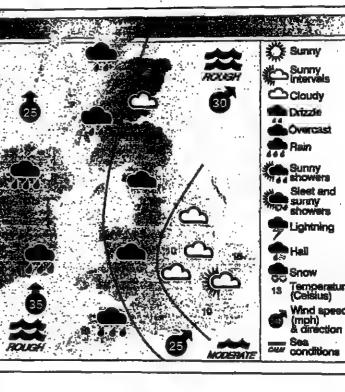
east is cloudy but mainly dry.

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Changes to the chart above from noon: high N will glide east and decline; low Z will fill



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Our City Editor shoots the breeze. about Granada



WORKING WEEK 27

Concocting a knockout brew amid the chaos



SPORT 42-48

Net improvement brings fresh hope for Henman THE HIDDEN **ASSETS OF** WHITBREAD Page 27

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY JANUARY 13 1996

Dismissal threat to sale of Gartmore

THE chairman of Banque Indosuez, one of France's leading investment houses and the owner of Gartmore, the British fund manage-ment group, will be dis-missed on Monday after a meeting of the bank's board to confirm the decision.

Sources in Paris said yesterday that the sacking of Jean-François Lepetit, the chairman of Banque Indosuez, could lead to an urgent review of Banque Indosuez's decision to sell Gartmore, in which it has

a 75 per cent stake.

M Lepetit, who has just completed a six-month review of the bank's strategy with McKinsey, the management consultants, will be replaced by Christian Maurin, chairman of Banque Solinco, an Indosuez subsidiary.

It is understood that Banque Indosuez, which will shortly unveil losses well in excess of £100 million, is discussing compensation terms with M Lepetit for his loss of office, which includes leaving the main board of

The French bank, which accrued the "significant" losses from loans to, and direct investment in, properties in Paris, is soon to ring-fence all its considerable property debts into Cradiuez, another subsidiary.

The imminent departure of Lepetit from Banque Indosuez, which is wholly owned by Compagnie de Suez, has held up the sale of the bank's stake in Gartmore, which has £25 billion of funds invested in a range of unit

trusts, pension schemes and II investment trusts. A source in Paris said that the whole group was suffering from a complete lack of direction and that rather than address the problems, the senior management had turned in on itself, which led to the departure of

the chairman. Banque Indosuez put its Gartmore stake up for sale last September and immediately sparked a flurry of interest from British and European banks and finance

One of the earliest bidders was BAT Industries, the tobac-co-to-financial services group, while Dresdner, the German bank, was also rumoured to be in the running. BAT was said to be very keen to add Gartmore to its stable of financial services companies which include household names such as Allied Dunbar, Eagle Star and Threadneed) Asset Management.

In the past month, however. the list of buyers for Gartmore has narrowed to two European houses.

The one most frequently cited is Bankgesellschaft Ber lin, the state-owned German bank, which was rumoured to have tabled a bid worth more than £500 million. The German bank could enter into a joint deal with the US NationsBank, which has an option to buy 25 per cent of Gartmore's shares. Nations-Bank and Gartmore already have a 50/50 Nations Gartmore venture in the US. The identity of the second European bidder is unknown.

Last August Gartmore annnounced that interim profits in the six months to June 30 fell by more than £1 million to £16.2 million and held the halfway dividend at 1.75p. The group said that a heavy investment programme in staff and computer systems more than offset additional fees earned from the extra E1.3 billion

increase in new funds. Paul Myners, chairman of Gartmore, said last night: "I can neither confirm not deny any of the speculation. I cannot comment." On the stock exchange, Gartmore's shares closed last night unchanged on the day at 269p.



The hat fits: Anita Roddick, founder and chief executive of Body Shop International, the natural beauty products retailer, received an honorary doctorate from Kingston University, Surrey, in a ceremony held at the Barbican Centre in London yesterday

SE gives three options for automated trading plan

By Patricia Tehan, banking correspondent

THE Stock Exchange has put forward three options for the introduction of fully automated trading services in August this year. It has given its 350 members and other market participants until February 17 to respond to a consultation paper seeking their responses

to the three options. They are: replacing the current system with an electronic order-matching system for trading all shares, with a separate "upstairs" system of trading unusually large blocks of shares; having an order book for some shares and continuing the current quote-driven system for others; or trying to accommodate both with a split-screen or hybrid approach so that there is an order-matching system on one screen and a quotedriven system on another. Institutional investors and market-makers are divided over the options. Institutions have been pushing the exchange to introduce a choice of

systems and would tend to favour the third approach. However, market-makers say it would be unworkable. Most have dropped their objections to the idea of an ordermatching system, but say market-makers would not wish to expose themselves by quoting prices on one screen. whereby they put large amounts of capital at risk, if there

was an order-matching system on the other. Once the consultation process has closed, a steering

committee chaired by John

Kemp-Welch, chairman of the exchange, will make a recommendation to the board by March 21.

It is possible that the implementation of order-matching could be delayed beyond the Exchange's timetable of August 27, if market-makers are not ready. Giles Vardey, director of markets development at the exchange, said that changes were not being imposed on the market, "part of the motivation for bringing in these changes is to reflect what changes are already

occurring". Mr Vardey reiterated the exchange's commitment to the policies established by Michael Lawrence, who was sacked as chief executive nine days

British Gas takes stand on contracts

BY ROSS TIEMAN NDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH GAS last night insisted that it remains committed to renegotiating its £40 billion of take-or-pay contracts with North Sea gas producers and dismissed suggestions that it was likely to seek bank support for a bail-

Although the Government may take powers to impose a levy on Britain's 18 million household gas users if North Sea producers cannot be persuaded to renegotiate high-priced contracts with British Gas, ministers are dearly anxious to avoid any new

burden on consumers.

If the full liability under the take-or-pay contracts, estimat-ed at £1.14 billion, was passed on, customers could face an average additional charge of £63.33 on their bill British Gas has provided only £83 million against any liabilities.

The levy proposal, described as an "insurance poli-cy" by the Department of Trade and industry, could be needed if the Government is obliged to intervene. It would enable the DTI to share the cost of remodelling the con-tracts between producers, the company losing the monopo-ly, and domestic consumers. as happened during a similar transition in Canada.

Under the Canadian Takeor-Pay Gas (TOPGas) scheme, a panel of banks loaned money to enable the supply company to buy out part of the contracts.

A British Gas spokeswom-an insisted that while several alternative strategies have been reviewed, the company remained determined to negotiate price cuts with gas

"We are deadly serious about this," she said. "We would hardly have recruited Ken Gardener, one of the best negotiators in the business, if we were otherwise." And she added: "We have certainly not been talking to banks."

WEEKEND MONEY



Anne Ashworth on the Woolwich

With-profit bonuses. Say goodbye to the good times



33 Start work and start saving. The advice of the experts

regulatory



INVESTMENT 25



Low point for US high technology

BUSINESS TODAY

57.5° (57%) 109°10° (109°4) 6.18%° (6.15%)

105.11° (104.90) 94.6 (94.5)

Tokyo close Yen 195.30 NORTH SEA OF Brent 15-day (Mar) \$16.90 (\$17.40)

London close \$399.35 (\$398.75) denotes midday trading price

Midland deal

Midland Bank has become the latest of the high street banks and building societies to own a fully independent life business after buying out a former joint venture partner. Midland bought Commercial Union's remaining 20 per cent stake in Midland Life for £50 million yesterday. Page 26

Pensions review rethink

BY ROBERT MILLER

THE senior City watchdog in charge of the £4 billion personal pensions mis-selling review has backed down under pressure from professional risk insurers who underwrite policies that pay compensation to victims.

The Personal Investment Authority (PIA), the regulator for firms that sell direct to the public, yesterday confirmed that letters to 100,000 investors who may have been wrongly advised by independent financial advisers will not

say that they are entitled to redress and will have the word "compensation" removed. Investors will now have to actively seek a review of their cases rather than be granted one automatically.

Professional indemnity (PI) insurers have consistently refused to allow independent financial advisers (IFAs) covered by their policies to participate in the review of personal pensions mis-selling as laid down by the PIA because they claimed inves-

tors were being invited to claim compensation Before yesterday's accord, the PIA was preparing to levy £250 administrative fines on IFAs who refused to take part

in the review. Now an amnesty has been declared while advisers initiate their part in the review process. It has been estimated that 100,000 of the 400,000 urgent

cases of alleged mis-selling were sold by IFAs. The regulator denied that the deal with PI insurers was a climbdown.

Swalec job for ex-Manweb chief

By GEORGE SIVELL

Manweb, who shared a controversial £4 million pay-off after being taken over, has found another job in the electricity industry.

Welsh Water is to appoint John Roberts as chief executive of South Wales Electricity if Welsh Water's bid for Swalec is succesful. The bid is being examined by regulators of the water and electricity industries. He will also become a director of Welsh Water if the bid succeeds.

ONE of the directors of Mr Roberts was one of six executive and three non-executive directors who shared a package of £4 million when ScottishPower won a closely fought takeover battle for Manweb in October last year. Mr Roberts was Manweb chief executive from 1992 until the takeover by ScottishPower and was paid £170,000 a year on a two-year rolling contract. Compensation on salary alone

would have been £340,000 and

be is understood to have had

E164,000 of options.



bid sets up tax pitfall FORTE yesterday claimed that Granada's £3.8 billion bid

Forte says

would lead to big tax disadvantages for Forte shareholders and any combined company (Alasdair Murray writes).

Forte argues that shareholders will not be entitled to tax relief on the 47p special dividend proposed by Granada. This will mean tax-exempt investors and pension funds losing 12p a share, or up to £100 million in total. Forte cites tax experts' advice

that Granada's revised offer

differs from special dividends in utility bids last year by letting shareholders choose the dividend or a lower cash offer. Forte says that the Inland Revenue will apply anti-avoidance law and restrict the tax credit. Forte also says Granada has misjudged the tax position on its proposed disposals and that Granada will be liable for

tax of £400 million from the estimated El.1 billion sale of Forte assets. Granada rejected Forte's claims, saying that even cor-rect they would affect Forte's

Melvyn Marckus, page 26 Working Week, page 27 Tempos, page 28

own proposed share buy-back.



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Bollinger, Granada and Hegel

et me tell you about a pal of mine called Nicky Rossini. ✓ Nicky and I go back a decade or so but, that said, what I know about Nicky's business interests you could stick in your eye and you wouldn't notice. Nicky spent a spell at Harvard but you wouldn't notice that either because mostly he likes to adopt a low-key style. Nicky likes people to underestimate him. From time to time. Nicky blows into town and we take a glass. Last week was such a week and I found Nicky in a Knightsbridge hotel scated alongside a black leather bar sipping a glass of Bollinger.

Nicky, wearing a suntan that never came out of a health club and a suit that never came out of a multiple, grins and tells me I look

I tell him paleness goes with the territory. We sip some Bollinger, wisecrack, eye the Knightsbridge Rangers, and then, all of a sudden, Nicky slings me a long look, "So what's with this Granada/Forte

end, Nicky, It's up to the institutions.

Nicky: "The institutions usually get takeovers wrong. The irony is that pension funds and life insurance companies should be the ultimate exponents of the long-term game. You tell me, what's more long term than maximising a pension fund? Building a business, maybe, but the institutions forget that too. What the institutions never seem to catch on to is that if a guy offers you a couple of bucks for an asset valued at a dollar-fifty he probably reckons it's worth three before he sweats it. What the pension funds should do is ensure the assets sweat. Take that Blackberry report I read about.

MM: "The Greenbury report." Nicky: Yeah. Now one of the things Greenbury said, sort of between the lines, was how the institutions preferred to influence corporate governance matters behind the scenes. That's fine, but how the hell do the institutions think they are going to influence

that all it takes is a lollipop to be shoved into a fund manager's mouth for the company to be sold down the river?"

MM: "Are you suggesting. Nicky, that this is not a deal made

Nicky: "Look. Forte was undervalued, it's as simple as that. I have never met the Fortes but you know what Italians are like. A lot of style but they're not flash, they don't wear it on the cuff. Milan isn't like LA; it's all wrought iron gates and shutters. You can't peer into peo-ple's homes in northern Italy. This is all to do with the Italian psyche which I will not bore you with. Forte was undervalued but is that a sin? Would you rather have your pension fund full of undervalued shares or overvalued shares? What Forte put together with Little Chef, Happy Eater and Welcome Break was a brand name monopoly in roadside catering. Monopoly is a sensitive word but that is what any businessman with an ounce of savvy dreams about. Granada



MELVYN MARCKUS

hasn't done that. I couldn't even tell you what Granada's motorway establishments are called.

M.M.: "Granada/Burger King."
Nicky: "Ask the public if they
want more Burger Kings. See what response you get?
MM: "You're hardly supportive

of this deal." Nicky: "Who is? Read the papers. This is a deal made in good old EC2. Why else would you create a

company with debts of £4 billion which, in order to bring its gearing down to 70 per cent, which is hardly low, has to embark on asset sales of 52 billion. The way to sell an asset is to have it torn away from you. You don't shout from the rooftops of a merchant bank that divestment is your game plan. It's great for the advisers and the underwriters. By the end of the day fees for this little charade are going to tot up to the thick end of £250 million. What the public never catch on to is who bears the cost. This guy Gerry Robinson has made no secret of the fact that he intends to jack up margins. That will hit the consum-er. Then we hear about squeezing an extra £100 million worth of profits out of Forte's operations. How much of that Ei00 million will relate to redundancies? Whatever the outcome, Granada's bid has made redundancies inevitable. The real irony, of course, is that should

Granada, given a few years, go the

way of most conglomerates, the

loser wouldn't be the fund manager who assented Forte shares but the

policyholder whose funds are actually on the line."

MM: "Maybe, in an era of corporate glasnost, institutions should disclose the way they vote in contested takeover bids?

Nicky: "Why not. Stand up and be counted.

MM: "Like Carol Galley, at Mercury Asset Management? Nicky: "Now there's a broad who would make one helluva craps player. Judging from her stake she realised Forte was undervalued long before Mr Robinson. MAM is still buying and now holds more than 15 per cent of Forte and around 142 per cent of Granada. Galley looks set to win whatever the outcome but she has to watch her

MM: "Why?"
Nicky: "Because, as of now.
Granada is perceived as the corporate raider, not MAM."

We order one more glass. Nicky: "This bid isn't over yet. Forte's tax counsel, Linklaters & Paines and Price Waterhouse, have been focusing on Granada's pro-

posed special dividend of 47p per share and the associated tax credit of 11.75p per share to be paid from Forte's reserves. They believe that the Inland Revenue will argue against a tax credit refund on the special dividend for tax exempt shareholders. They also believe that higher-rate taxpayers who opt for the extra payment will be denied capital gains tax treatment, with the payment taxed as income. The other argument you should look into is whether Granada's proposal to pay a special dividend out of the Meridien sale constitutes buying a company with its own money. Such an action would contravene Section 151 of the Companies Act, although Granada's lawyers may have dis-covered some loophole."

MM: "And what do I say to the

fund managers, Nicky?"
Nicky: "Remind them of the Eighties and tell them to read legel. Tell them to read the bit about what history teaches us is that people never learn anything from history, or act on the princi-

Midland buys final CU stake in life business

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

MIDLAND BANK has become the latest of the high street banks and building societies to own a fully independent life business after huying Commercial Union's final stake in Midland Life for

E50 million yesterday.

Midland had until August this year to exercise an option to buy the remaining 20 per cent investment held by Commercial Union, its former joint

The insurer, which helped Midland to set up its life arm in 1988, originally held a 35 per cent stake after investing £4 million. That stake had been reducing gradually.

The move confirms the increasing dominance of the bancassurers — subsidiaries of banks and building societies selling life and pensions products through high street

By selling through existing branch networks, they avoid

the overheads of maintaining a separate sales organisation. Their market share of life and pensions sales is estimated at

about 20 per cent.
NatWest. TSB, the Woolwich and the Halifax Building Society run life arms. This week, Standard Life, the UK's largest life company, said that new business had fallen by a third after its agreement to supply all pensions and investment products to Halifax

Meanwhile, Scottish Mutual Assurance, the life company bought for £285 million by Abbey National in 1992, has bucked the industry trend by almost doubling its annual life and pensions business.

In a year during which fierce compention and a huge drop in sales after the pensions misselling scandal dogged the market, its total new annual life and pensions business rose 93 per cent to £36.2 million in 1995

(£18.8 million). Industry anacial support from Abbey National and a new young,

aggressive management team. The mutual claimed it had made its life products more attractive by improving transfer values for pensions and had cut operating expense ratios from 125 to 104 per cent on annualised new business.

Total new premium bustness was £506 million, compared with £462 million in 1994, of which new single premium life and pensions business accounted for E443 million (£470 million).

The industry measure of growth, worked out by adding total annual business to 10 per cent of single premium business, showed Scottish Mutual had increased business 32 per cent in 1995.



Tempus, page 28 Frank van Wezel expects trading to remain tough, with the cutting of costs a priority

Hi-Tec saves cash by passing payout

By MARTIN BARROW

HI-TEC, the sports footwear manufacturer, has passed the payment of an interim dividend as it seeks to conserve cash to sustain the momentum of its recovery in the face of

tough trading conditions.
Helped by the disposal of loss-making businesses and a wide-ranging cost-cutting ex-ercise. Hi-Tec returned to profit in the six months to October 31, earning £010,000 before tax. In the first half of the previous year, the com-pany incurred losses of £6.57 million, and full-year losses totalled £12.54 million.

Frank van Wezel, chairman. said that the company expected difficult trading to persist in the second half, with a forecast upturn in consumer spending

in Britain and America having only a modest impact. "We expect to pursue similar trading policies to those in the first half of the year, with continued attention to operating margins and the reduction of both overheads and working

capital requirements," he said Turnover from continuing operations (ell by 12 per cent because of tough trading and persistent destocking, notably in North America and the UK. Mr van Wezel said it would be "some time yet" before the market for outdoor sports footwear absorbed surplus stocks.

Interim earnings of 0.27p a share compared with losses of 14.29p last time. The previous interim dividend was 1.58p.
The shares rose Ip, to 33p.

Hodder is bullish on book sales

By SARAH BAGNALL

TIM HELY HUTCHINSON. chief executive of Hodder Headline, says he is cauti-ously optimistic that last Sept-ember's collapse of the pricefixing agreement on books will stimulate the market.

"We are cautiously optimistic that the recent changes will stimulate steady, profitable growth in the UK consumer

Mr Hely Hutchinson's remark was made as he disclosed a 13 per cent rise in sales in the three months to December 31. helped by a sharp rise in business with non-traditional booksellers. such as supermarkets. Hodder expects to report a 10 per cent rise in sales to 589 million for the year to December 31.

Richard Adam. 38, who has been chief financial officer of The Family Channel is to become Hodder Headline's finance director on April 15.

After a slow summer in the UK book market, sales were relatively strong towards Christmas. Hodder, which quit the Net Book Agreement in September 1994, issued a profits warning that month. blaming weak consumer demand.

Aggressive price policy lifts Argos

ARGOS, the catalogue retailer, has revealed that its aggressive pricing policy for the holiday period saw a 14 per cent leap in sales in the five

weeks before Christmas. Argos traditionally makes more than 85 per cent of its profits in the second half of the year, which includes Christmas. The company saw like-for-like sales rise 8 per cent in the five weeks, a slight im-provement on the 7.2 per cent advance in the first half.

The City was pleased with the news, especially as the increased sales were not achieved at the expense of gross margin.

Sir Richard Lloyd, chairman, said: "Despite keener pricing in our autumn/winter catalogue, we have managed and withstood the downward pressure on gross margin."

Argos did not refer to plans for its £200 million cash pile. In August, the company said it was looking to buy. If an appropriate candidate is not found, the company could undertake a share buyback or a special dividend payment.

Tempus, page 28

Iceland concessions LITTLEWOODS, the football pools to chain store empire,

Littlewoods reduces

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

has decided to reduce the number of Iceland concessions in its stores. Only last month, Iceland, the frozen food retailer, joined forces with N Brown, the home shopping group, to launch a £1.1 billion offer for Littlewoods. The approach amounted to nothing as the company's shareholders voted to remain private for the time being. Bob Willett, managing director of the Littlewoods chain stores, said: "Discussions with Iceland over the concessions started well before the takeover approach. Talks have been on-going for at least

The number of Iceland concessions in Littlewoods 130 stores is to be reduced by 11 to a total of 37. Mr Willett said that the move reflected the group's desire to expand the prime floor space given to its Berkertex range, which accounts for 60 per cent of Littlewoods' womenswear sales. "We decided to look at all of the concessions in the store to see if we could make better use of the space," he said. Of the remaining Iceland concessions, which are mainly in non-prime space in the Littlewoods stores, the lives of 14 concessions have been

Hughes sales disappoint

TJ HUGHES, the discount department store operator based in the northwest of England, told shareholders yesterday that current year profits would fall short of last year's pre-tax earnings of El.6 million. Hughes said that although sales improved over Christmas on a like-for-like basis, they were insufficient to counter a disappointing autumn sales period. The company, which faces higher interest and distribution costs, said price competition had intensified, resulting in lower margins. The shares fell 2p to 58p.

Rhino profits warning

SHARES in Rhino Group, the computer and video games after the company gave a warning that full-year results would be below market expectations after December sales fell short of earlier hopes. Rhino blames slower than expected implementation of a new stock management system and aggressive discounting by rivals. Rhino lifted sales, but suffered margin erosion. Electronics Boutique, of the US, last year took a 25 per cent stake in the company.

Tomkins bid message

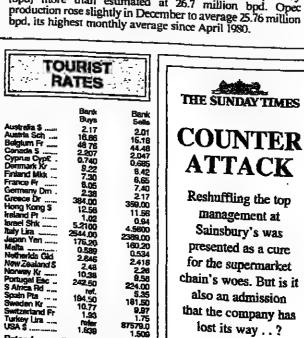
TOMKINS, the industrial conglomerate, yesterday sought to allay fears about the outcome of protracted negotiations related to the proposed acquisition of privately owned Gates Rubber, the US auto component manufacturer, for an estimated \$1.1 billion with assumption of about \$240 million debts. Tomkins said: "Negotiations have been satisfactorily completed and all essential terms of the contracts agreed." However it said, "a couple of technical issues, unrelated to the business, remain outstanding".

Dawson shares soar

SHARES in Dawson Holdings, quoted on the AIM, rose to £10 from 890p yesterday, even though the newspaper and magazine distributer reported profit decline to £3.5 million before tax from £4.5 million for the year to September 30. The decline was attributed to losses at Faxon Inc, based in North America that was acquired earlier in the financial year. Faxon is expected to return to report this years. is expected to return to profit this year. Operating profits from continuing businesses were up 60 per cent. The dividend is lifted to 30p (29p), with a 20p final, payable on March 8.

More demand for oil

OIL demand from leading industrial nations was much higher than expected in the last quarter of 1995, and supplies higher than expected in the last quarter of 1995, and supplies were lower than expected, the International Energy Agency (IEA) reports. It said that the call on crude oil produced by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in last year's final quarter, plus stocks, was 1.1 million barrels per day (bpd) more than estimated at 26.7 million bpd. Opec

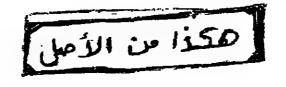


THE SUNDAY TIMES COUNTER

chain's woes. But is it that the company has

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Concocting a knockout brew amid the chaos

This week Granada played its final hand in the bruising battle for Forte. Jon Ashworth talked to its ebullient chief executive

You can move

from hero to

villain in three

minutes flat



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Mercally dies

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GERRY ROBINSON bounds into the room, ∪ hand outstretched, eyes sparkling. It is after 5pm on Wednesday — "or is it Thursday day, the days tend to blur" — and Grana-da's chief executive is on a roll. His face

stares back from a dozen newspapers, reflecting the latest twist in the gargantuan struggle for Forte, the embattled hotels-to-Happy Eater group. Robinson, 47, has gone for the knockout blow with his revised £3.8 billion bid, and feelings are running high.

The previous morning, Robinson and his advisers had trooped to the City for what was to prove a make-or-break presentation. They had spent the weekend finalising a package that was intended to seal Forte's fate once and for all. Granada can do no more — the matter is in the hands of the shareholders — and Robin-

son is happy he has given it his best shot. Details of the revised offer, the source of so much weekend speculation, must have been carried out in conditions of utmost secrecy ... surely? "Actually it was at home in Holland Park." says Robinson, throwing back his head and giggling hysterically. It was in the dining room, papers spread out before

me, kids coming in, all wanting a say. My four-and-a-half year old [April] ... My daughter clumping in with some railway girders. It was pretty chaotic."

Robinson, who earns £700,000 a year, has four children — two from his first marriage, and two infants, and the age gap

makes for an interesting mix. Samantha, soon to be 21, is studying art — hence the girders. A long way behind Richard, 18, comes April, 4, and one-year-old Timothy. "You get in at three o' clock in the morning," says Robinson, chuckling glee-fully, "there can be people coming home with all sort of undesirables, kids screaming ... It's a real mix."

All this is a far cry from the image of Robinson the cut-throat corporate raider that one has come to expect, what with all this talk about shedding jobs and stripping assets. Why, Robinson is talking of trimming no less than £100 million a year out of Forte — surely no mean feat. "People tend to think of it all as costs." he says, growing serious, "but it is very often about growing the business. There's quite a large gap between cutting and hacking, and something that's genuinely built up and doing extraordinarily well."

An early victim of a Granada victory would be Forte's head office in London's Holborn, which has a staff of 290. Granada oversees its leisure, television and catering empire from a head office of Robinson talks of the importance of keeping Granada's 45,000-strong workforce informed. "There is quite a responsibility about giving them a base — not falling off a cliff if it all goes wrong."

The clock on round two of the battle for Forte began ticking the moment Robinson stepped off the plane from Ireland ten days ago. He spent Christmas in Done-gal, where he grew up, in a cottage overlooking the sea. Snow was heavy on the ground, but there was little time to admire the view. "Faxes were flying to and fro, phone calls were flying ... Donegal being Donegal you could hardly get the car out of the drive." He seems genuinely surprised to hear of the snowstorms to hit America this week. He has been so caught up with the bid that

world news has passed him by. Replete with "too many mince pies and quite a lot of Guinness". Robinson flew back with British Airways (no corporate jets here, the Forte jet is high on the hit-list) and flung himself into the next stage of the contest. "Obviously, the first key issue was to decide how we were going to pick up the bid."

Everything was hinged to Tuesday's presentation to journalists and analysis, in which Robinson unveiled an innovative package that added £500 million to the value of the bid. "We were pretty keen to get right back to the basics of what the deal was about — why are we doing it?
What's in it for shareholders?" Much of the detail was finalised on

Sunday. Robinson's advisers left his home about 10pm, giving him time to relax for an It's been heated. hour or so over a glass of red wine. "It's very difficult after that to go to bed, with your head spinning. Oddly enough, I

slept like a log." He was up at 6am, and set off for Granada's head office in Golden Square. "I spent an hour sorting out non-bid is-

sues, opening the post, then began the whole process of finalising documents, tying up the deal. It went on until midnight." The day included meetings with a number of key Granada shareholders. "I think people forget who owns the business," says Robinson, reflecting that he and his colleagues are managers. , and have a duty to keep the "owners" briefed. "You pick up a great deal by listening to what your shareholders have

He prefers a spontaneous approach to speech-making. "I never rehearse a presentation more than once. If what you say is what you believe, you say it better, rather than reading it through 15 times. I always try to make it a bit light and uncomplicated. People in business take themselves far too seriously."

Granada's strategy relied on winning the support of the Council of Forte — a

goal which, if sources are to be believed, saw Robinson confronting a room filled with elderly gentlemen nodding off over their glasses of port. Robinson is too tactful to comment but concedes: "Clearly, forward without the council's support. They had the right, technically, to veto the bid." The council's hand was won with the promise of £50 million for the Forte trust



On a roll: Gerry Robinson and his management team masterminded Granada's revised bid in the "secrecy" of his dining room over the weekend

shares, and the deal was signed shortly

before midnight on Monday.

It was not a restful night. "I didn't sleep well," says Robinson. "Clearly, ahead of a presentation, you're a bit unsettled. But it went very well with the analysts and the press." He left home at about 7am, travelling by chauffeur-driven Mercedes, and report the part of the day in one to one and spent the rest of the day in one-to-one briefings, in between a hastily snatched salad lunch. "I feel terrible if I eat snacks - tired and out of sorts."

Lack of sleep and irregular dining may explain the unfortunate scene after the presentation when Robinson lost his cool with a journalist who was less than flattering about Granada's motorway restaurants. One observer says: "It got very nasty. He turned red, started sweating. The Granada board were really quite embarrassed." Be that as it may, Robinson was in his usual jocular form when we met, and showed no sign of cracking up under the stress.

Tuesday evening brought a welcome respite: Robinson went to see Riverdance. glistening as a haunting Gaelic sun rises over a misty landscape. He shrugs off such sentiment: "It was not quite a tear in the eye, but a kind of gutsy feeling."

Afterwards, he and his party dined at the only suitable venue in such circumstances: Deals, one of a chain-of-three backed by Lord Linley and Lord Lichfield.

"I've not been to it before," says Robinson. Typical fare includes hamburgers and spare ribs, and the menu plays on the idea of big deals, hot deals ... During a bid, hursday _

there is no escape. Robinson went to bed at about 1.30am, and was up for an 8am

meeting at Lazards, the merchant bank. With Granada's cards on the table, it now comes down to selling the revised offer to Forte shareholders. "There are 13 days to go," he says, looking at his watch with a theatrical flourish. "The whole thing comes to a finale at ipm on the 23rd." It is ironic that the BBC should choose

this week to announce a new chairman in Sir Christopher Bland, Robinson's adver-sary during Granada's bid for London Weekend Television two years ago. Robinson, who steps up to become chairman of Granada in March, insists that the hid for LWT was quite different, even though the mechanics might be the same.

"It was never anything more than a very friendly affair," he says. "This one has become very heated: We want to acquire this company because we can run it a great deal better..." He shrugs. "You can move, can't you, from being hero to villain in three minutes flat."

Today Robinson is at Wisley Golf Club in Surrey, where Sir Rocco is also a member. "He's a very good golfer," says Robinson, claiming a stubborn 21 handicap. "My son more often than not gives me a hiding these days, which I find humiliating. Later, he goes to Suffolk to celebrate his sister Maureen's birthday.

Just over a week from now, Robinson and his team will know whether their audacious punt for Forte has paid off. He appears confident, as always, but gives little away. "Clearly, if we're successful, we will then embark on a fairly long period of deciding what to do with the business. If we fail, it will take two days to get over it, crying, and then..." That disarming Robinson smile. "We'll just get

EXETER FRIENDLY

Cumulative

(FIDDEN ASSETS)

Best draught horses that prove their pulling power

nation's broad char-acter is usually dis-played in its foreign policy, its formal and monumental architecture and in its great composers of literature and music. Curlicues of temperament are evident further away from the centre and one indicator of such is a nation's public ceremonies - its coronations, its grand openings of parliament, its state and public funerals, its civic shows and mayoral

British ceremonies, like those of most countries, are of course designed to maximise the pomp and the magnificence of the occasion and as such are made compellingly moving.
But for the British public,

the impact seems to be all the greater if these events can be made to incorporate scores of glossy-maned horses, ocJoanna Pitman reports on how shires draw heavy loads and large crowds

exquisitely groomed horses that pulled the Queen to Westminster Abbey for her And it is the shire horse, descendant of the trusty old

ished gear, such as the

mount that carried English knights into battle at Crecy and Agincourt, that is per-haps most beloved of the British, lying as it does today at the conjunction of two British passions; the love of ceremonies and the love of Whitbread owns a team of

17 shire horses which has managed to capture the hearts of the British ceremony buff and of the tourist by providing six shire horses for the Lord Mayor's Show every year since 1955.

quired its team in the early 1950s. The horses have also had something of a functional role, pulling beer carts or drays until 1991, when they were moved from their stables in Garrett Street in the City to Whithread's 200-acre hop farm in Beltring, Kent, where they are looked after by six full-time stablehands. Whithread shires are now used almost entirely for ceremonial duties and shows, and are on display to the public at the farm every day

The shire horse is the heaviest of the draught breeds. It is a handsome and powerful animal which has both enormous stamina and strength. often combined with an unusually placid nature. The ancestors of

between 10am and 4pm.

purely for their military value, specifically as charges capable of carrying knights bearing heavy armour and Among the many heavy horse breeds kept for military purposes, it was the Clydesdales in Scotland that

gained an edge as one of the strongest breeds after Edward I of England imposed a han on the export of horses of military value to north of the border, and as a result, the Clydesdale stock was strengthened by horses brought in from Flanders and Denmark. In the 17th and 18th centu-

ries, the English heavy horse stock was likewise boosted brought over by Dutch contractors, hired to work on the drainage of the Fenlands.

The shire is an immensely owerful horse of commanding appearance, sometimes hand equals four inches) and tonne. It has thick musculature — unusually broad shoulders and a girth that can run to 24 metres.

Horse buffs describe the typical shire nose as convex Roman, its eyes as kindly and its long mane as well suited to the copious ribbon plaiting that goes on before a show. But it is perhaps the heavily feathered lower limbs of fine silky white hair that show off their active pace to best advantage and set the hearts of the equine ceremony-lover into a pre-

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* Comparison with the leading private medical insurer illustrating the savings realised without automatic age increases.

£1,727.79

£1,212.19

£696.59





October launched its second

rescue rights issue in under

ten months, blames the latest





Good mood evapor over Wall Street bl

about managed to end a note, but solid early gains evaporated in late trading as wild swings in New York unsettled traders' nerves after Wall Street went on another roller-coaster ride.

Confidence on this side of the Atlantic was initially restored by a buoyant CBI retail survey. Wall Street's overnight recovery and renewed optimism about another interest rate cut, combining to overshadow recent political concerns.

However, a positive start on Wall Street was shortlived as the Dow Jones industrial average swung from an early 24point gain to a 35-point deficit in just over an hour. The continuing uncertainty over a resolution to the US federal budget deficit again unsettled traders and depressed sentiment in London.

The FT-SE 100 saw a onetime 15-point gain whittled away, with the index ending up 2.4 points at 3,657.3, giving a loss of 47.2 points on a volatile week. Volume reached 675 million shares.

There was continued heavy trading in Forte as the arbitrageurs continued to take a keen interest in the hotel group's bid battle with Granada, which dismissed Forte's warning on possible tax implica-tions of its increased bid. Forte shares climbed 2p to 369p, on volume of 25.5 million shares, while Granada. whose improved £3.8 billion offer is increasingly expected to bring it victory, dipped ip to 663p, on volume of 8.29 million shares.

The retail sector was a bright spot, with a number of high street stores groups and supermarkets in demand after a CBI survey reported bullish trading in December.

Argos was the focus of attention, with shares in the catalogue retailer up 4p to 565p after an update showed strong trading in the five weeks immediately before Christmas, Sales were up 14 per cent in total and ahead by 8 per cent on a like-for-like

Elsewhere in the sector. Boots firmed up to 593p Kingfisher Sp to 531p. Marks & Spencer 4p to 431p, Asda 12p to 114p, Sainsbury 42p to 404p and Argyll 62p to 342p. Kwik Save was a dull exception, losing 13p to 490p, after reports of a downgrading



Card Clear's anti-fraud system for cards helped it to rise op

from ABN Amro Hoare

Hi-Tec Sports rose 2p to 34p as the sports shoe group accompanied a return to the black at the interim stage with a buoyant trading update.

British Gas was in demand, rising 5p to 2642p, on heavy volume of 30.61 million shares, after talk that leading banks may lend billions of

chairman, had sold one million shares, at 326p, realising £3.26 million. Mr Goldman, who has been chairman since 1981 and is due to go part-time this spring, still holds 6.85 million shares, or 4.9 per cent. TJ Hughes dipped 2p to

58p as the discount department stores group gave warning of lower profits in the year

Games Workshop, the fantasy wargames specialist, firmed 3p to 286p after Merrill Lynch placed 2.3 million shares, a 7 per cent stake held by one European investor, at 267p with a number of institutions. Tim Steer, at Merrill, remains a buyer and has lifted his full-year forecast from £7.2 million to £7.5 million.

the scheme to bail the company out of its dispute with North Sea gas producers over billion of long-term contracts.

Elsewhere, Enterprise Oil rose 11p to 380p in the wake of an encouraging drilling report on the Monte Alpi field in

Sage Group, the Newcastlebased accounting software specialist, lost 9p to 333p on news that David Goldman.

pounds to the group as part of to January 31, after sales during the Christmas period failed to make up for disappointing autumn sales.

But ČE Heath, the insurance broker, firmed ip to 155p in spite of saying that it will incur a one-off £10 million provision in the current year as it makes substantial cuts in

Lister & Co was in the doldrums, with the textile group losing 21p to 231p after its failure to complete the

MOVERS	OF THE WEEK
Forte phe phe Forte phe phe phe phe phe phe phe phe phe ph	Week's sharps +240 Better bid terms from Granada +18p Raises Forte tid to £3.5 billion +9p Geec Computer buys stake +27p Broker visit +111/sp Demergar proposals +140p Results/profits upgrade -35p Profits warning -24p Werns of profit shortfall -36p Disappointing Christmas sales

	Tokyo: - 30287.49 (-90.5
	Hong Kong: Hang Seng
rates	Amsterdam: EQE Index 502.81 (+4.0
	Sydney: 2239:4 (-9
lues	Prankfurt DAX 7356.45 (-26.0
nucs	Singapore: 2602.02 (+32.1
sale of one of its mills. In contrast, Manders, the print-	Brussels: General
ing ink group, added 5p to 300p on news of contracts	Paris: " CAC-40 1907.59 (-9.2)
worth £25 million. Zeneca rose 3p to £12.30	Zurich: SKA Gen
after the US Food and Drug Administration cleared the	London: 2720.9 (Sun
marketing of a new formula for the pharmaceutical group's Zoladex treatment for	FT 100
advanced prostate cancer. Shares in Rhino Group fell	FT-SE Enromed 100 1514.02 (+94 FT A Alf-Share
4p to 12p after the computer and video games retailer gave	FT Fixed Interest
warning that its full-year re- sults will be below market	SEAQ Volume 759.9 USM (Datastrm) 190.01 (+1.1 USS 1.5472 (+0.000
expectations after disappoint- ing sales in December. Analyst were previously ex-	German Mark 2239 (+0.00) Exchange Index 83.3 (+0.00) Bank of England official closs (+0.00)
pecting pre-tax losses of about £6.7 million. Rhino, which last	£:ECU
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shortfall on a slower than expected implementation of a Century Inns Cox Insurance new stock management system and aggressive discount-**Crown Products** ing by other main video games Dmatek Jupiter Split Cap Jupiter Split Inc Shares in Card Clear, the credit card fraud protection Jupiter Split Units company, which is quoted on the Alternative Investment Northern Perroleum 75 Nthn Petim Wris Revelation Picc Market, surged to 71p before settling at 66p, up 6p, on news of a lucrative deal to install its SkyePharma B Wrts Hot Card Broadcast system in Mobil's petrol retail outlets Unicorn Intl (133) throughout the UK. About 200 Mobil sites have already been

installed with the HCB sys-HIGHES SOMES tem, but a further 350 sites are expected to have systems installed by the end of April. Ransomes n/p (48) Dawson Holdings, the li-SWP Group n/p (25) brary supplier and newspaper wholesaler, which is also traded on AIM, surged 120p to Sutcliffe Spk n/p (25) £10.10 after the company re-

ed its current-year profit fore-cast from £6.4 million to £7.6 GILT-EDGED: Overnight gains by US treasuries helped glits to a positive start, but gains were trimmed in the

ported better than expected

final results. UBS has upgrad-

The March long gilt future ended up eight ticks at £1101732, on volume of 56,000 contracts. Among conventional stocks, advances were eroded by the close, but gains stretched to E1032 among the longer-dated issues, while linked about £116.

NEW YORK: Uncertainty

over the federal budget continued to dog shares on Wall Street. The Dow Jones industrial average was 39.38 points lower at 5.025.72 by midday.

New York: (midday) Dow Jones
Tokyo: - 30287.49 (-90.50)
Hong Kong: Hang Seng
Amsterdam: EOE Index 502.81 (+1.03)
Sydney: 2239:4 (-9.3)
Prankfurt: DAX 2356.45 (-26.94)
Singapore: 2402.02 (+32.53)
Brussels: General
Paris: " CAC-40 1907.59 (+9.74)
Zurich: SRA Gen
London:

MAJOR NEICES

+ 2 Seafield Res n/p (65) 22 SkyePharma n/p (4) 5 Westbury n/p (150) 24

MALOR CHANGES!
Risss: Rollan
Church 420p (+10p) FALLS:
MAID 192p (-12p) Christies int 191p (-9p) Rediand 384p (-10p)
Sage Gp
Sothebys

Closing Prices Page 41

.... 474p (-13p)

Lawyers take over Forte bid

account earlier deals, Rolls is

making big inroads into the fast-growing Asian market.

still have to wait for a payoff.

Profits under the contracts are back-end loaded. Initial

engine sales are discounted

to secure orders, with most of

However, investors will

THE takeover bid by Granada for Forte has now been taken over by lawyers. Forte has claimed that Granada's proposed special dividend and tax credit will be disallowed by the Inland Revenue under the anti-avoidance provisions. According to Forte, offering shareholders the option to choose between income and capital falls foul of the rules. Predictably, Granada disagrees and both camps are waving expensive legal opinions.

The dispute puts the bid into a curious limbo as the only arbiter, the Inland Revenue, is unlikely to volunteer an opinion unless requested and Granada has, curiously, chosen not to seek clearance on a matter that could cause it to win or lose on the day. Without the 12p tax credit there is little daylight between the Granada bid and the Forte proposals. Gross funds will now be

reaching for lawyers and the only sensible advice to private shareholders, unable to hire expensive silks, is to do nothing.

That is likely to be to the advantage of Forte. Valuations of its own share buy-back and disposal programme differ, but some come close to 370p, leaving Forte shareholders with the age-old problem of choosing between the low-risk strategy of backing a cosseted management with a poor record, or supporting a cost of the control of the control of the cost of the c ing a more actively managed conglomerate.

Granada and Forte share much the same institutional investor base and if fund managers have any sense they will demand a compromise, with Forte selling its roadside restaurants to Granada. In the longer term, investors should insist that the Takeover Panel prohibits bids whose value depends on approval by tax authorities.

ensures a higher margin. It

is also too early to factor in

expectations of follow-on or-

ders. Rolls should announce

pre-tax profits of £160 mil-

lion for the year to last month. If it achieves the

expected £230 million in the

current year, the shares will

Rolls-Royce

JUST how high can Rolls-Royce shares fly? Chart analysts at ING Baring reckon they have now broken previ-ous resistance at 205p and are on their way to the giddy altitude of 240p. This would be extraordinary, given their recent low of 150p.

What is going on? At privatisation, Rolls was an immature business, struggling to develop civil aviation and industrial power and reduce its dependence on defence. Then followed a four-year recession in civil aerospace sales. Failure to win a huge order from the Saudi national airline caused the shares to hit their

Since then, Rolls has secured a 77-plane order from Singapore Airlines and a contract from Malaysian Airline System. Taking into

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Life insurance

IMPRESSIVE new business figures from Scottish Mutual Assurance should convince any lingering doubters that the life and pensions industry is headed for further upheaval. Scottish is a medium-sized mutual, and while its independent brethren are struggling to sell enough policies to pay City office rents, the Abbey National-owned firm increased new business by a third last year. Much of the success can be

attributed to the takeover by Abbey in 1992 when new capital was injected, providing financial strength at a time when IFAs — the main source of business for Scottish — were losing confidence in smaller mutuals, whose costs were eating into reerves. The ability to increase business volume is helping to bring down cost ratios, which in turn make Scottish Mutual more attractive to financial.

This virtuous circle will not . that engenders envy else-

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DOLLAR RATES

have gone unnoticed by other large financial service organisations, such as NatWest. seeking to sell more investment products through IFAs. Banks have had little success in selling more sophisticated products, such as pensions, over the counter and manywill see merit in following Abbey's example of separat-

ing the plain vanilla policies of Abbey Life from Scottish Mutual's pension and health insurance products. With IFAs close to controlling half of the personal pensions business, those mutuals with good IFA links could find banks knocking on their doors.

Argos

IT IS hard to find fault with Argos. Mike Smith and Bob Stewart, both from the BAT management training school, have created one of Britain's best performers. The catalogue retailer continues to lift profits and sales with an ease

where: in the five weeks to Christmas like-for-like sales grew 8 per cent. Success has left Argos with

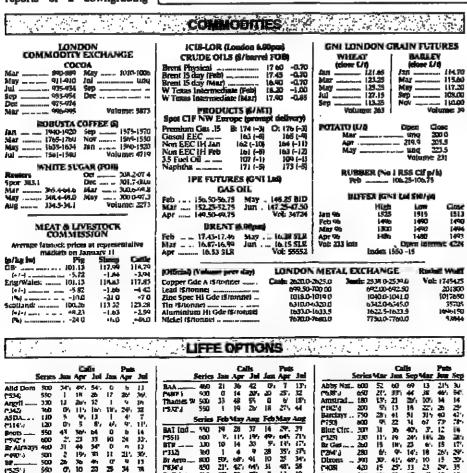
the happy problem of making use of its ample cash flow; net liquid funds now top £200 million. New outlets and possible new formats will absorb funds, but it will be hard pressed to spend all the cash

it is generating.

An acquisition would imply a change in the cautious management style of Argos. Institutional shareholders are generally nervous of retailers expanding through acquisition, but ironically, they would probably back a deal from the Argos team.

A suitable target has yet to emerge and in the meantime the surplus cash is not a serious drag on earnings growth. Argos could pay a special dividend of buy back shares. The latter could enhance earnings per share but might sacrifice Argos's recently won FT-SE 100 status.

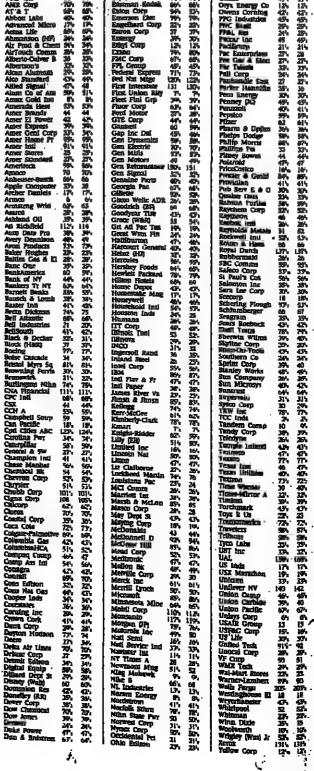
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PLAN AHEAD 33

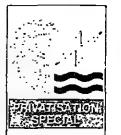
New earners should start saving now

WEEKEND MONEY

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POWER SHARES 36

In the dark about switching off



Grim policy of smaller bonuses

Marianne Curphey on the continuing cuts

to annual returns from endowment plans

he 17 million people in the UK who own an endowment policy are being told to brace themselves for bad news when their annual bonuses are announced. More life companies are tipped to follow the trend set by Norwich Union, Scot-tish Life, Friends Provident and Commercial Union who

have cut or frozen bonus rates within the past eight days. Rapid growth in the UK stock market during the 1980s, when annual returns were frequently between 25 and 30 per cent, pushed up yields on policies maturing this year or in the next couple of years. But the lacklustre performance of the stock market in the early 1990s, means policies with a ten or 15year term taken out

within the past five years will struggle to match current yields of about 35 per cent being paid on personal pension policies.

Industry observers say that companies will be unable to sustain high payouts to the end of the decade, and blame life companies for paying "over-

1980s. Some consolation for policyholders is that inflation at 3.1 per cent is lower than it was during the 1980s, and in real terms less capital is being eroded. In 1980, inflation was 18 per cent, and fell steadily to 5 per cent in the mid-1980s before rising to 7.5 per cent at the end of the decade. Norwich Union defended the bonus

HOW YOUR MONEY GROWS

the investor 16 per cent net of expenses, life companies need to be making around 18 per cent return. That was relative-ly easy in the 1980s when returns were a phenomenal 25-30 per cent. Over the last ten years, however, pension funds have returned an average 12.5 per cent, while over five years that fig-

ure is nearer 9 per cent. If you started a 15-year policy in 1985, you would have had a sew good years in the 1980s, but then some mediocre returns in the early 1990s. I would be surprised if companies make a return of more than 10 per cent over the next five years, and that means pay-outs will have to come down." He said figures from

showed terminal bonuses now being paid on products bought on or before 1970 were equivalent to 45 per cent of the sum assured and bonuses, while those bought in 1980 or later, were equivalent to 15 per cent. The table shows yields for

policies maturing this year from four companies that have already declared bonuses.



Looking into the future

after the pensions mis-sell-ing scandal, life and pension houses are obliged to quote standard projected growth rates to prospective customers (Marianne Curphey writes). This means com-panies are unlikely to predict the final payout on a policy based on current growth rates and bonuses and which was taken out this year

for a ten-year term.

The rules governing life products mean companies can quote returns on growth rates of 5 per cent and 10 per cent, or a middle rate of 7.5 per cent if only one rate is quoted. For pensions, the rates are 6 per cent, 12 per cent or a middle rate of 9 per cent. Under the new rules on disclosure investors must also be told the charges they will have to pay as a cash figure.

Commercial Union, using a growth rate of 9 per cent, estimates a payout for a with-profits unitised pension for a man aged 50 next birthday, intending to retire in 15 years' time and paying £200 a month would be £62.800 — just over half current payouts. Norwich Union predicts a return of £63,300. Life assurance policies pay a fixed

sum on the death of the insured, or extra bonuses or annuities on They mature after a fixed period. A term policy provides life cover for

the period specified. Endowment policies provide both life cover and a guaranteed sum on maturity. Two types of bonuses are:

□ Reversionary bonus — also known as annual bonus, is the variable extra amount companies add to with-profits policies and are

investments. Once declared, it can-not be withdrawn. Some are made every couple of years.

☐ Terminal bonus — an additional non-guaranteed sum paid at the end of a with-profits life policy or on the insured's death.

> Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Clear message from Woolwich

In Yorkshire, Peter Robinson, chief executive of the Woolwich Building Society, is not a popular man. Earlier this week, as it became clear that the Woolwich was poised to reveal its flotation plans, the pace of account opening at the society increased twentyfold. More than 70 per cent of this money came from Yorkshire. But none of these new customers will enjoy the society's share bonanza, which will be reserved for those who were members of the society at the end of last year.

Yesterday, the society said that many of the opportunists were already closing their accounts. None has, to date, threatened the society with legal action. The Building Societies Commission said that the Building Societies Act permitted a society to set any merger

or flotation payout qualifying date it pleased.

freeze, saying with-profits poli-

cies were "designed to smooth

out these peaks and troughs of volatile investment markets". However, Geoffrey Bernstein,

a consulting actuary, gave a warning that the industry

would find it increasingly

difficult to achieve current 15.6

per cent yields on pension products taken out 20 years

In his announcement on Thursday, Mr Robinson made it clear that only those qualifying investors and borrowers who were with the Woolwich on December 31, 1995, will receive free shares when the society becomes a bank in 1997. The average payout will be about £1,000.

After his announcement that no "carpetbaggers" would ben-efit from the flotation largesse, Mr Robinson said that his longstanding members sympathised with his stand. Earlier this week, some were heard to tell newcomers in branch queues that speculators were unwelcome at the Woolwich. Mr Robinson also points out that the December 31 cut-off

date was set with tax-exempt

special savings account (Tessa) holders in mind.

About 25,000 Tessa accounts matured between January I, and January 10, 1996. Some investors have opted to transfer their Tessa cash to new Tessa accounts with the society but have withdrawn the accumulated interest. Since they had been loyal customers of the society for five years, it would have been unfair to penalise them by using their opening Tessa balance (maximum £9,000) to calculate their share entitlement. This is £3,000 less than the value of their matured Tessa.

The Woolwich share issue will be largely based on the Halifax model. But the Woolwich has not yet decided whether it will raise additional capital on flotation by selling shares to outsiders. Borrowers

and savers will qualify for the Woolwich payout if they have at least £100 in one of the society's share accounts, or £100 outstanding on a mortgage account at December 31, 1995. The account must remain open until the conversion date and the member must also be eligible to vote on the conversion. Certain accounts and products which do not carry membership rights (see page 31) will not qualify.

If you are both a borrower and a saver, you will receive shares in both capacities, Those with more than one account will receive only one payout, although the balances will be added together to determine the total. Those with less than £100 in a qualifying account may receive a statutory cash bonus.

Woolwich savers who are Continued on page 31, col 4

Ordinary PEPs and TESSAs used to be all the rage. But then so were **Morris Minors.**"

Introducing the MoneyBuilder range. The new generation of savings has arrived.

Invests in corporate bonds, so can offer a

From launch, MoneyBuilder Income has

proved to be the best value corporate

lower level of risk than traditional equity PEPs.

MONEYBUILDER INCOME

High tax-free income – 7.8%".

This year promised to be a bumper one for stock market flotations even before the Woolwich declared. That does not mean it will be a great year for private investment in new issues. This year, even bigger flotations need not include a public offer or a

placing through private client brokers. There is something of a pattern to flotations. In 1993, share prices rose strongly. In 1994, the stock market was flooded with issues: up from 163 to a record 218. They raised a doubled £10 billion. But share prices fell through 1994 and the slide was exacerbated by a series of duds, whose early stock market lives served mainly to sour the repute of investment houses involved.

Overall, newly quoted shares still fared better on average than the indices. But that was not saying much. Institutional investors staged a ragged strike. Not surprisingly, flotations dried up in 1995. Over a year of generally rising share prices, just 85 newcomers raised £2.6 billion. Neil Austin of KMPG Corporate Finance, who compiles these figures, reckons that the buoyant market conditions of 1995 will spawn a fine new crop in 1996, when many companies' profit records have been flattered by several years of recovery.

The new issues market is, however, not the happy hunting ground it was for private investors. Many ambitious company founders used to come to market. They were happy to give investors a discount to earn friends. Cautious profit forecasts, effortlessly beaten, created a good impression for the future when they aimed to go on to bigger things. The



Flotations make a splash

pattern is much altered. Building societies are one special case. Millions will earn a windfall from the Halifax, the Woolwich and doubtless the Alfiance & Leicester too. But private investors will generally be sellers. 1996 promises two more hefty privatisations. The pricing and fate of British Energy and Railtrack are political. If they proceed, instant gains may be the best, because both face regulatory pressure.

A series of communications groups is scheduled, led by Orange, the mobile telephone network, and probably including Diamond Cable and the smaller People's Phone. Many of these will offer jam tomorrow but only projections today. The object is to raise money and put a market value on investments already made by promoters. They want the highest sale price. Private investors, sick of Eurotunnel and Euro Disney. may well leave these to institutions that have more faith in notional arithmetic. In recent years, many flotations have

been the final element of a management buyout or buy-in backed by venture capital houses, which must maximise profits on flotation. These are often popular, because they have had so much top-notch support and the back-ing house retains a big stake. There have been disasters, such as Barings' MDIS software house and an unhappy trio from Legal & General Ventures.

Shares in the L&G-backed detergent group McBride, floated six months ago, fell off the cliff this week, knocked over by a profit warning. They fell nearly as far as shoe components group Chamberlain Phipps in October. A month earlier, investors who bought Aerostructures Hamble shares at 120p in June 1994 accepted a 32p rescue bid.

avid Rough, L&G investment boss, is unhappy but argues that these failures have nothing to do with the venture capital process. Chamberlain Phipps and McBride. along with others, proved vulnerable to the unexpected economic slowdown. But such companies are sometimes shed by bigger groups because they are cyclical and have no special growth prospects. Other venture capital houses, such as CINVen, claim their babies have outperformed the stock market. A league table, based on two or three-year performance, would be a useful guide. Meanwhile, private investors, no

MONEYBUILDER CASH

longer wanted at the big boys table, should stick to the old rules. Back

individuals with good original ideas.

products or marketing, a decent record.

and an unsated hunger to succeed.

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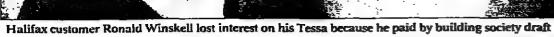
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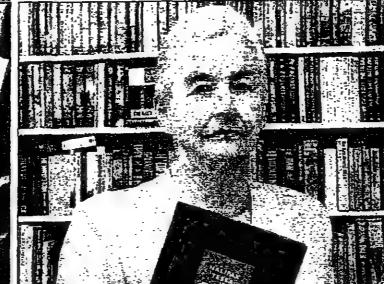


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Caroline Merrell takes a look at disappointing maturity values







Tessa shortfall upsets Halifax savers

gered many of its almost impossible to achieve the maximum quoted exempt special savings account (Tessa), The Times was the first to highlight discrepancies between the amounts promised to savers and the amounts actually received.

Early last month, the society produced a figure of £12.050. as the maturity value for a Tessa, where the £9,000 maximum had been invested.

Later in the month, the society revised the figure, saying that it would pay its one mum of £12,040. There are two explanations for the revision. The first that interest rates fell in the second half of December; the second, that the Halifax had failed to calculate its figures correctly.

This revised amount would still make the Halifax one of the better performing accounts, outstripping many ri-vals, such as the Bristol & West, Leeds & Holbeck and Yorkshire Building Society. This week, the Hallfax recal-

culated the maximum maturity for the third time, and came up with a final and hopefully definitive figure of E12.038.37 for the maximum maturity.

Yet, many Times readers who felt they had done every thing to ensure they would get the maximum amount from

YOUR INVESTMENT AND THE SOCIETY FLOTATION

into account the shares they will be eligible for under the terms of the society's floatation, before they decide on where to reinvest the proceeds from member will be eligible for will depend on the amount of money they hold with

Shares will be allocated in two tranches - there will be a basic distribution of shares for those with at least £100 in share accounts, and there

to achieve this final figure

because of the way in which

maturity values are calculat-

Their attempts to get an

explanation from the society

have left them baffled. Even

For many the issue is less the

shortfall between the amount

they have received, and more

the failure of the society to explain the difference. Some

have been so annoyed that they

from the society and reinvest

elsewhere - action that will

jeopardise their eligibility for shares when the Halifax floats

To get the full amount.

Halifax savers must have pre-

registered with the society before the start of 1991 — this

receive this maturity.

based an the total amount held with the

Shares will be distributed according to a series of narrow bands for those who hold between £1,000 and £50,000

with the society.

The variable distribution will be based on the lower of two balances between November 25, 1994, and the date of a special general meeting to vote

on the conversion. Members will be given several weeks

would have qualified them for

a £30 sweetener. They must

have started their account on

January I — almost impossi

ble: it was a Bank Holiday.

although the Halifax claims

that it did make it possible to

backdate interest payments by

one day. Savers would have

then had to reinvest the maxi-

mum sum on the anniversary

The investment limits for

Tessas are £3,000 in the first

year, and £1,800 in years two.

three, four and five up to a

maximum of E9,000. If the

instalments were made by

cheque on the anniversary

date, interest would have been

calculated from the day the

Cheque clearance times in

1991 were longer than they are

today, and at that time interest

funds actually cleared.

of the original investment.

per cent — one day's loss of interest on a £3,000 invest-

The Halifax Tessa paid bo-

nuses of 1.5 per cent at the end

of year one. I per cent at the

end of year two, 0.75 per cent

at the end of year three, 0.5 per

cent at the end of year four and

0.25 per cent at the end of year

live. It also paid a bonus of \$100, if the maximum lump

sum was invested each year.

Margaret King, from Bex-

hill, East Sussex, is one of the

the first date she could --

January 2, 1991. She trans-

ferred the maximum amount

each year directly from another Halifax account.

When her Tessa matures she

will get £12.037.61 - slightly

short of the revised maximum.

ment would be about £1.10.

notice of the meeting, allowing them to top up accounts to their November 25 level to make sure they get the maximum number of shares.

In theory, then, if those with maturing essas are not attracted by the Halifax's 5.9 per cent variable rate, or the 7 per cent fixed rate (the rate will actually be fixed on the day the account is opened), they can reinvest their money elsewhere and not lose out on the free shares. But society and top it up before the special meeting to the November 25, 1994 level.

> ble to believe that anyone could have invested on the January 1. When I contacted the branch to find out why the amount differed from the maximum you could achieve, they

of explanation." She is also confused by the maturity values given by the Halifax for Tessas taken out by her sister and daughter. They both opened accounts with the Halifax on January 12. Her daughter's Tessa will hit a maturity figure of

seemed unable to give any sort

produce less — £11,994. Halifax said that the difference between the maturity achieved by Mrs King's sister and her daughter could be explained by the pre-registra-

Mrs King's own Tessa failed

January Z. Ronald Winskell from south London, is another irritated Halifax customer. He started his Tessa on January 3 1991. He would have received £143 less than the maximum from his maturing Tessa After reading the article last week he decided to check his

maturity. "I found that they had not paid me the £30 pre-registration bonus," he said. He also found that he had lost interes because he had paid by build-ing society draft. "I transferred funds using a building society's draft from the Chelsea Building Society. The interest would be calculated when funds were cleared, which could have taken a few days."

He added: "It does not say in the literature anywhere about payment in cash. Anyone who lives in south London knows it is not a good idea to walk around with large amounts of

money in your pocket."
He said: "I can believe that late cleared funds could mean shortfall of about £90, but that still leaves £23 unaccounted

Mr Winskell is also angry at what he considers to be the low rate of interest offered on the Halifax's new variable rate Tessa, which is 5.9 per cent. There are much better rates available from elsewhere." he said. "The only reason I am staying with the Halifax is because of the shares I should A QUESTION OF MONEY

Will all that glisters in 1996 be gold?

A it depends on whom you believe. Salomon Brothers, the US securities house, predicts that the gold price will average \$415 this year, an increase from the 1995 average of \$385. The firm freely admits that it got gold wrong in 1995, having forecast that it would break through the \$400 barrier.

Given gold's failure to per-form over the past couple of years, in spite of favourable conditions, including low interest rates, the gold bears may be more persuasive. Andy Smith, gold analyst at Union Bank of Switzerland, finds no simple reason why gold should have risen by \$10 since the beginning of the year, taking the price above \$395 for the first time since April 1995. He believes that even if the metal breaks through the \$400 level, it will still end the year at about

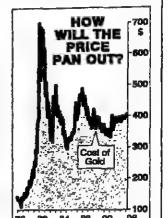
tions in the New York market that the price rise was caused by US funds getting out of bonds and into gold, but there is no firm evidence to prove this. Mr Smith comments: With gold, there isn't always a reason why."

Why, in spite of opti-mistic forecasts, did gold fail to perform in 1995?

A take different views. The various observers For example, Salomons notes that there was a surge in jewellery demand in the Far East and the Middle East and a decline in goldmine production, both factors which should have led to

a rise in the price of gold. Golden Ninja Turtle trinkets were all the rage among Saudi Arabian children, while in Japan, TV pictures of the Kobe earthquake showed a woman discovering her store of gold coins

Does the recent Japanese investors this epi-bounce in the gold sode underlined gold's price mean that the metal is unique qualities. But, ac-Japanese investors this epi-sode underlined gold's unique qualities. But, ac-cording to Salomons, for-ward selling by goldmines acted to depress any buoyan-cy in the price. The produc-ers agree to sell gold at a price slightly higher than the ruling level for future delivery, so locking in a profit. Mr Smith points out that Japanese demand was only strong in the first quarter of the year, spurred by the earthquake and social disquiet. Thereafter, demand fell to below normal levels.



Why should the situa-

Salomons claims that A the gold market is now in a chronic supply deficit, with mine production and scrap supply falling short of demand. Mr Smith, however, questions the strength of demand, particularly in spurning gold in favour of savings accounts. He also points out that the gold price is not solely determined by supply and demand. Investor sentiment is a more powerful powerful influence

He adds: "Gold may seem to have been resurrected but the feeling that it has still got one foot in the grave is hard

ANNE ASHWORTH



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With such low administration costs, often accompanied by a notice period for withdrawals, societies can offer competitive rates. With postal accounts, as elsewhere, the more money you invest the better the rate of interest. In some cases, the minimum investment is extremely high. Take the Direct 50 postal account launched by the Newcastle Building Society: minimum investment, £100,000.

in return you get 6.9 per cent growth per annum (5.52 per cent net for basic rate taxpayers). Interest can be paid monthly, but at lower rate of 6.65 per cent (4.99 per cent net). Maximum investment is 200,000 and with-

ANSWERS ON POSTAL ACCOUNTS Q. What is a postal account? A. A building society account where all transactions are

A. Telephone the society to request an application form. You will be sent pre-paid envelopes and a pass book. Q. Is there a security risk?

A. The societies say not. There are security checks on the account holder's address, where the pass book and cheques would be sent. Q. Do all societies have them?

A. Less than a third, including: Birmingham Midshires (0645) 720721): Bradford & Bingley (0345 248248): Bristol & West

drawals are subject to 50 days notice or a penalty of the loss of 50 days interest.

Jane Harrison, of the Newcastle, says: Traditionally people liked to walk through the doors and to do any business face to face. But in the last few years more and more people want to deal by post. People's lifestyles have changed. The industry realises that customers want to (0800 303330): Cheltenham & Gloucester (0800 717505); Coventry (0345 665522); Nationwide (0800 665511); Newcastle (0191 2442442); Northern Rock (0500 505000): Norwich & Peterborough (01733 391497); Nottingham (0115 948 1444); Scarborough (0800 590578).

deal by phone or by post and this is one way of responding to that." On Wednesday, Norwich and Peterborough Building Society launches its second postal account, Postal 90. Minimum investment is £5,000 and interest rates range from 5 per cent gross per annum to 6 per cent for balances of £50,000 and over. Withdrawals

require 90 days notice, whereas the society's

other postal account PostMaster gives instal access but lower rates. Alison Lipscombe, of the Norwich and Peterborough, says: "We were one of the first to offer a postal account and it has been consistently popular. They appeal particu-larly to retired people who have substantial amounts of money to invest, but who may not be able to easily get to a branch."

It is worth remembering that the interest rate on offer is variable and, especially these days, could drop. James Higgins, of Chamberlain de Broe. the financial adviser, says: "Products are launched with a splash and a high rate but after a while societies know they can cut that rate and keep a majority of account holders largely through inertia." Building societies are keen to reassure customers that they are still committed to the branch network. But some analysts see it as the thin end of the wedge. Penny O'Nions, of De Havilland, the financial adviser, says: "It does mean smaller branches will disappear."

SARAH JONES



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Playing the Mutual Lottery

The Woolwich's announcement that it is seeking a stock market quote came as some-thing of a relief. Since its plans to convert were an open secret. its coy act was becoming irritating. When it becomes a public com-pany, the Woolwich should remember that being forthright is an attractive quality in a mutual or any other sort of body.

Those who opened Woolwich accounts this month and miss the right to free shares will be arguing that the society should have made its intentions clear sooner. This is certainly true. Some will also object to being called "carpetbaggers", perhaps an unfair way to describe those wishing to join Britain's second-favourite gamble, the Mutual Lottery. However, Peter Rob-inson, the Woolwich's chief executive, acted properly to protect the interests of the society's long-term savers, who are infinitely more numerous and deserving.

The 3.5 million Wool-wich members who will benefit will be overjoyed to

in 48 years, blanketing the

US east coast from Virgin-

ia to Massachusetts in up to

four feet of snow, the airports

were closed for two days and I

was stuck in New York. "At

least I'll be able to move off

your sofa and into a hotel," I

told my friends as we watched

the skiers on Broadway. After

all, I had taken out travel

insurance and knew there was

a "delay" clause for just such an emergency. But like many

others I discovered that my Bradford & Bingley plan did

It wasn't easy, or cheap, to find out how little cover I had.

The annual multi-trip travel

insurance booklet does have a

freephone number for the US.

but it is primarily for emer-

gency medical assistance. In

order to find out if the £600

accommodation limit for travel delay would apply. I had to

It was early evening UK-

time when I rang the 24-hour

assistance line and was told

that, as my question was not

about a medical emergency, I would have to ring Guardian

travel delay. The hotel is down

Bradford & Bingley's policy will pay £20 after the first 12

hours' delay and an additional

to the airline."

not cover it.



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

find that they will be, on average, £1,000 richer by September 1997, the proposed date for the flotation.

However, it now seems. possible that they may not need to wait that long for their windfall. The Woolwich — always seen as a predator, seeking out other tasty mutuals — could now hecome prey. Europhobe Woolwich stalwarts may not like the idea of their soc iety being bought by some continental institution, a widely predicted move. Such scruples will vanish at the sight of the cash. After all, National & Provincial members should be picking up their cash this summer. only a year after the takeover deal for their society

was made public.

The Woolwich directors'

Left out in the cold

by travel insurance

£10 for each subsequent 12

hours up to a maximum of

£100. By my calculations, my four-day delay will yield com-pensation of £80. This will

help with the unexpected cost

of eating out for four days, but

it would barely make a dent in

the cost of four nights in an

hotel in a city where a room for

under \$100-a-night is consid-

ered a bargain. Bradford & Bingley will pay

up to £600 in accommodation

for travellers who cannot re-

turn home, but only as the result of a scheduled public

service breakdown or an acci-

decision to exclude all those who opened an account after December 31 1995 should be good news for their counterparts at the Alliance & Leicester. The El,000 now needed to open an A&L Tessa, or the £5,000 for a Bonus 90 or Bonus 180 account is already deterring the "carpetbaggers" (not my phrase, you understand).

Any "carpetbaggers" will be further discouraged by the thought that the A&L may also impose a cut-off date, giving it more time to settle differences of opinion among its bosses, and to finalise flotation details. Confirmation that the Woolwich had finally demade to customers in its branches earlier this week. Anyone contemplating transferring the proceeds of a matured Tessa to a competing society was told that they might be kissing goodbye to a payout.

Those with Tessas from the Britannia, the Bristol & West, the Northern Rock and the Skipton should also ponder the wisdom of taking their cash else-where. The extra bit of interest earned in a competitor's account will not be equal to the floration or merger bounty you could collect if these four aban-

don mutuality.

Fortunately, there is, to date, no confusion over the maturity values of these societies' Tessas. As we report on page 30, such has been the equivocation over the final figure for a Hali-fax Tessa that a few investors have threatened not to open new accounts with the society, so forgoing a four-digit sum in free shares. No better example

will emerge this year of cutting off your nose to **Speculators** receive clear

message

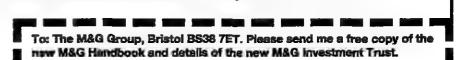
Continued from page 29 under 18 will not get shares, as the law does not allow them to take part in the llotation vote. But they will get the cash bonus, the amount they receive being based on a percentage of their account balance, not at December 31, 1995, but at a date yet to be determined. To prevent parents paying large amounts into their offspring's accounts, the Woolwich has ruled that the balance in a child's account can now only be increased by a maximum of £1,000, excluding interest.

The society is determined to learn the lesson of the Abbey National who gave children 4 per cent of their balances. without limit. Parents took full advantage to fill their children's accounts to the brim.

The Woolwich will be making a basic and an additional variable distribution of shares. Only those who have been investing members for two years will qualify for the variable distribution.

The amount of variable distribution shares savers will receive is to be based on the lower balance in their accounts on December 31, 1995 and at least one other date, yet to be

■ Accounts and products which do not qualify: Deposit accounts, including Time Deposits, Current Account, all unit trust products, including Peps, all life products, including Guaranteed Income Account/Bond, all Woolwich Guernsey Accounts, personal unsecured loans, all general insurance products. Woolwich information line 0345 022033. in New York



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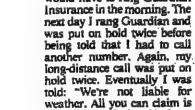
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Rich Gordon shovels snow off the roof of his home

dent or mechanical failure to a

car in which you are travelling

which prevents you getting to the airport. Although public

transport had ground to a

halt, Bradford & Bingley said

the extra compensation did not apply. There was little comfort

from American Airlines, who

said, "If we had cancelled the

flight through mechanical fail-ure we would pay for an hotel

but the weather is out of our

control." Luckily, I had friends

KAREN ZAGOR

in the city; others did not.

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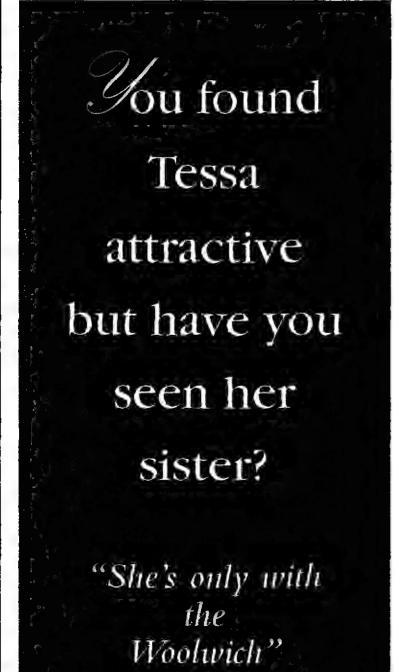
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Those with a head for the market are divided, some throwing their hats in with the bears, others with the bulls

Waiting for gilts to deal good hand

ast year was something of a bonanza for investors in government securities. Five-year gilts showed a return of about 13 per cent, tenyear gilts about 17 per cent, and longer-dated gilt returns hit the 19 per cent mark.

The returns for investors in 1995 contrasted dramatically with those in the previous year, which was a particularly

had 12 months for the gilts market. In January last year, most commentators managed to predict correctly that gilts would rally strongly. No such consensus exists on the prospects for this year.

Stephen Lewis, director of research at London. Bond Broking, said the big returns experienced by gilt investors last year were unlikely to be

last year were uninkely to be repeated because of the proximity of the general election. He said: "At the beginning of last year, the market expected robust growth, with inflationary pressure, and interest rates were expected to rise. In fact the opposite happened, economic growth slowed down and Interest rates fell."

Mr Lewis believes this year

will be a much riskier one for investors. The latest figures from retailers point to some recovery in consumer demand, which could lead to an increase in inflationary pressure and interest rates, he said. "The uncertainty about Labour fiscal policy could also

make it a very difficult year."

However, he thinks short-dated gilts, maturing in two to

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A CHEAP and easy way of buying gilts is through the National Savings Stock Register. You can

access this service through any post office branch. For purchases of under £5,000, the service costs 0.6

per cent, with a minimum £5 charge (sales do not carry a minimum charge). For £5,000 and more the service costs £30, plus 0.35 per cent of the amount

above £5,000. One other advantage of using the

stock register is that the income earned on the

Government stock is paid gross of tax, which means non-taxpayers do not have to go through the rigmerole of claiming their tax back.

three years' time, could be good for savers. "They are

yielding about 6.64 per cent, which is much better than

many deposit rates," he added.

current raily in the gilts mar-

ket will continue over the next

She said: "The bulk of the

Theodora Zemek, fixed-interest manager at fund manager M&G, believes the

figures end of last year. A general election will make some difference, but there has been a gradual appreciation in the City that new Labour is not ates, he y about Her tip for this year is that

could also

Her tip for this year is that
long-dated gilts will show total
returns of 12 to 14 per cent, on
the back of falls in interest
raies, Justin Ur-

managing director of Barclays stockbrokers, takes the opposite view: "The market is just too risky. We are not at all bullish about the immediate future in the gilts market."

Eric Hathorna director of stockbroker Henderson Crosthwaite,

quhart Stewart,

said: "Just looking at the fundamentals, there may be further cuts in interest rates. The glit market should respond favourably."

He thinks the political uncertainty has been overdone, and a Labour Government would not prove to be disastrous in terms of inflation and, therefore, interest rates.

CAROLINE MERRELL

Strips market in place

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THE BUILD NOW

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FROM the beginning of next year, a new type of security based on giltswill be available to private and institutional investors alike (Caroline Merrell writes).

By the start of 1997, the Government is aiming to put in place the regulations necessary to create a "strips" market.

Creating a strips market, as the name implies, involves breaking up a gilt into its two component parts — the capital, or "principal", and the income, or "coupon".

Gilts pay a fixed guaranteed income, and guarantee to repay the capital at maturity.

Investors in the strips market will pay a price today for the guaranteed income, or for the guaranteed capital which will be paid in the form of a lump sum at some point in the future.

The guarantees make

The guarantees make the strips market ideal for those who know they have as liability in the future, eg, school fees or a mortgage. The delay in setting up

The delay in setting up a strips market was caused by a dispute about whether investors should pay tax on the stripped income.

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After graduation, students are to be encouraged to save as soon as they find a job. They can pay into a Personal Social Fund from their first day at work

New earners can save for their future

sidering a radical plan to encourage first-time earners to save for their future. Under the scheme, graduates would start paying into a Personal Social Fund from their first day at work.

To steer graduates away from welfare dependency, tax breaks would be among the incentives on offer. Savers would be able to access their money at any time in their career. Tony Baker, of the Association of British Insur-ers, said: "Financial services only look at the top third of the population. We want to extend that downwards. People living at home may have a lot of disposable income at this stage. Why shouldn't they be encouraged to save?"

Certainly, the average starting salary is impressive, at E14,362 last year, up 6 per cent on 1994, according to the Association of Graduate Refigure will rise to £15,000 next

Starting salaries among City-based graduates are even higher. Employees of multinational companies are earning as much as £25,500 in their first year, according to Guy James, graduate manager at Barciays in London's Square Mile. He says half of first-time earners will start saving before they reach their second year. The more sophisticated

will invest in a fixed rate bond. Graduates fortunate enough to have found work. who have repaid their university debts, usually start saving six months into their new career, according to Lloyds Bank. To help first-time earners to make the most of their salary Weekend Money has asked a panel of IFAs to offer

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WITH THAYS TO STABITS AVING

BRIAN CONNELL, Grant Thornton: "I would first recommend a monthly saving to a bank or building society to provide an emergency fund equivalent to three months' earnings in case the job doesn't reach expectations. If property purchase is contemplated, a deposit of around 5 per cent of the purchase price may be required. This could also be built up in cash through through building society savings. If a five-year time span is envisaged, use a tax-efficient Tessa to set funds aside as untouched capital."

PHILIPPA GEE, Gee & Company: "Shop around for a good bank or building society account, like C&G, which offers preferential savings or mortgage rates to customers. Work out the level of monthly savings you feel can be spared, and set up a standing order for that amount to a high-interest postal account, like Scottish Widows. Only start providing for a pension when you're sure that you're not extending yourself. Look for a contract that gives payment flexibility and low charges, as well as competitive performance. If you're looking to buy a house, try to save a large deposit, as all lenders, except C&G, charge an indemnity premium if your mortgage is more than 75 per cent of the value of your property."



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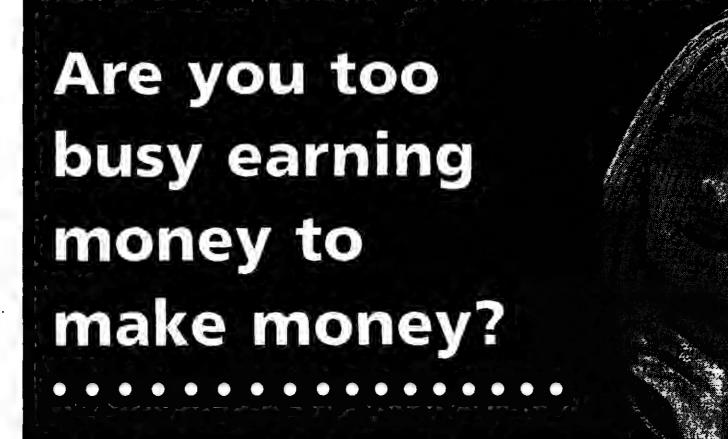
JOHN EATON, Lupton Fawcett: "I would suggest opening a building society account with reasonable access for liquid funds and a

general cash reserve such as Yorkshire's First Class Access postal account. You might also consider opening an interest paying current account such as the Woolwich Cheque Account. Open a flexible Tessa with one of the smaller societies who offer competitive

JAMES HIGGINS, Chamberlain De Broe-"If you're going to purchase a house within three years of employment, forget any long-term, insurance or equity-related arrangements. A postal account will be more appropriate, perhaps C&G or Northern Rock. Avoid endowments which are simply expensive insurance-linked savings plans. If that sort of saving is desired, try regular

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When the going gets slow

The hopes of hundreds of thousands of people seeking compensation for bad pensions advice were boosted this week when the High Court threw out pleas from live pension providers to stay legal actions brought by six victims of mis-selling. The six can now go on to fight for compensation through the courts, bypassing the industry's slow moving review of pension mis-selling.

The providers, which included the Prudential, GAN Life, TSB Life, Hill Samuel Life and Irish Life, had argued that the six should wait for the review, ordered last year by the chief City watchdog, the Securities and Investments Board rather than going to court. They had given warning that the courts would be flooded with claims if the six were allowed to proceed.

Their pleas were turned down by the court, which argued that it would not be in the industry's interests to drag out the review. Most people would be dealt with through the review rather than the courts, said Judge Raymond Jack. Regulators insist they have designed the review so that investors do not have to go to court.

But there is growing concern over the slow progress of the review. The first compensation to the most pressing cases were due last month. But SIB and the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), which regulates most pension providers, , were forced to admit this week that only a handful of people have so far received compensation. A few cases

have been individually settled. The review was set up after an SIB-commissioned report uncovered widespread evidence of mis-selling of personal pensions at the end of 1993.

So if the review is taking so long, should you go to court instead if you think you have been wrongly advised? Or should you hold on and wait for your pension provider to review your file? We answer some of the questions you may need to ask yourself before deciding on your strategy.

Why is the review tak-ing so long?

A blaming the PIA, for the industry has already earned



Long time in the waiting room

IT is more than 18 months since the Prudential contacted Tracey Glester to up-date her on the progress of her claim for compensation for bad pensions advice. Her solicitor has had to threaten court action to get the Pru to release information Mrs Glester needs to pursue her claim. A meeting with the Pru was abandoned when the company could not agree a venue or to pay for

time it took to issue guidelines

for sending out questionnaires to possible victims, reviewing

their files and paying compen-

sation. They say they could not

commission software to han-

dle the adminstrative task of

tracking down victims until

the PIA published its guide-

lines, which it did not do until

August 1995. Some of them

also blame earlier legal action

by independent financial ad-

visers, who have until now

refused to co-operate with the

review on the ground that they

would invalidate their profes-

sional indemnity insurance if

they contacted customers, eff-

ectively admitting they were at

But aren't all these just excuses for not having

A element of that. But as

Judge Jack pointed out, the

There is certainly an

to pay compensation?

Mrs Glester's solicitor. She says: "This is all typical of their attitude. If I didn't know better, would have said they were a cowboy outfit." Prudential salesman persuaded Mrs Glester, a nurse, to opt out of her generous National Health Service pension and take out a personal one. Now, like hundreds of ousands of others, she is pinning all her hopes on the pension review for compensation.

itself such a bad name over the whole mis-selling debacle that it would be suicidal for it to delay compensation without

WEEKEND

Yes, but I've been wait-Yes, but I ve been two years. When are they going to

All companies and ques-All companies should by tionnaires to people considered by the regulators to be priority cases. These include those aiready retired or dependants of someone who has died, those who left their present employer's scheme aged 35 or over and are still working for that employer,

and those who transferred funds from a previous employer's scheme into a personal pension aged over 55 for men or over 50 for women. The deadline for reviewing your case was meant to be December 31, 1995, but this has

I'm a priority case but I haven't heard anything. What should I do?

You should contact the company which sold you the pension if you were sold it by one of the company's own salesmen. But things are more complicated if you went through an independent financial adviser, because of their argument that they would be inviting invalidation of their professional indemnity insurance if they contacted

This week, the issue was resolved. The PLA says that those concerned should conthe adviser is reacting to your

But why isn't anyone forcing these people to contact me? Surely these delays are unacceptable?

A The PIA agrees that it is "slightly disappointing" that the first deadline was missed but adds: "We only ever said firms should use their best endeavours." It says it will be demanding quarterly returns from all its members showing what progress they are making in dealing with the problem. The first returns are due this Monday. Firms not deemed to be making suffi-cient effort could face disciplinary action.

I'm not a priority case but I want to get this sorted out. What do I do?

You have to contact the A company concerned. Once you've done this, the company is obliged by the PIA to check your file.

Would it be quicker if I Would in be questioned?

it may not be quicker, it may cost you money if you do not qualify for legal aid and are not supported by a trade union. But if you took out a personal pension more than six years ago or are not a priority case, you may be better off going to court. This is because you only have six years from when you were sold the pension to make a claim. If you bought your pension more than six years ago, you still have up to three years to claim from when you could reasonably be expected to know there was a problem. Most people first found out in December 1993 when news of the damning SIB commissioned report was published, giving them at least until the end of this year. If you fear you could be out of time on either of the limits (particularly likely if you are not a priority case), you should take out a protective writ against the pension provider. The writ has the effect of stopping the clock, allowing you to take court action after the limitation time has expired. Complaining through the review system does not in itself stop the clock.

if the State can't provide financial security, shouldn't you make a **Resolution to keep** something up your sleeve?



Taking steps to secure your financial future is probably the last thing on your mind as you ring in the

Trouble is, with less and less State money for welfare demands like pensions and support during illness, you really can't afford to put it off.

You have to plan now, and make it your resolution to do something before this growing lack of provision affects you and your family.

So where do you start? Talk to an independent financial adviser. Whatever your concerns mortgage cover, schooling, health

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moved out of the line of fire.

However, the spectre of a windfall tax on the profits of

the utilities remains, but if implemented, this is likely to hit

water and regional electricity companies hardest Power

generators are already operat-ing in a competitive market and it is expected they would

If I do want to sell can I do so before the second

A From Wednesday shareholders will receive

notice of the second payment due. This "call notice" is a key

document if you want to sell your shares. Between January 17 and 20 you can take the

notice to an accepting broker

to sell the shares. Most big

brokers, including high street

banks, building societies and

telephone dealing services,

will be accepting part-paid

shares. You may find small

brokers will not take them, so

it is important to check in ad-

vance to avoid missing the

Where can I get further

Two hotlines have been set up. Both operate from Monday in normal working

hours. For questions on

PowerGen shares call 0117 976

3005, while for National Power call 01903 503 733.

What happens if I miss the deadline?

A shares nor pay the sec-

ond instalment due on Febru-

If you neither sell your

shares. This means

ary 6, you for-

they are repos-

sessed by the

Government via The Treas-

ury, which sub-

sequently sells

get this price less a deduc-

tion to cover the

January 26 sell-by deadline.

have less to lear.

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personal complete and access and the fine in tiple is define by the properties of the second to select the second of the second

From Wednesday inves-tors in National Power and PowerCon the tised power generators, will be receiving reminders that the second payments on their partpaid shares are due.

With National Power shares below last March's 170p first instalment, and PowerGen showing only a modest premi-um on its 185p launch price, investors may be wondering what to do. Here we answer some of the questions you need to ask.

What do I have to pay and by when?

A Shareholders in Power-Gen will have to pay a second instalment of 185p by February b with the third and final instalment of 142p due by September 17, 1996. For National Power investors the secund instalment is 170p by February 6 and 136p in Sep-tember. If you opted for the



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Power on in the dark or switch off early?

discount package offered when you first applied for the shares, the price you pay will be adjusted accordingly.

why have the part personal shares done less well than expected since flotation?

At present levels, neither the part-paid price of PowerGen nor of National At present levels, neither Power would seem to give shareholders much to cheer about. Having hit a peak in 1995 of 299p for PowerGen and 271p for National Power. both shares came crashing down after the electricity regulator's surprise review of the sector last summer. Since then, despite a brief rally in November, both shares have been on the slide. Dampening both part paid and fully paid shares is the referral of each of the groups' bids for regional electricity companies to the Monopolies and Mergers

Commission. PowerGen is at present bidding £1.9 billion for Mid-lands Electricity, while National Power is offering £2.8 billion for Southern Electric. The MMC's report on both bids will not be completed until March 22 when it is then given to Ian Lang. President of the Board of Trade, for a final

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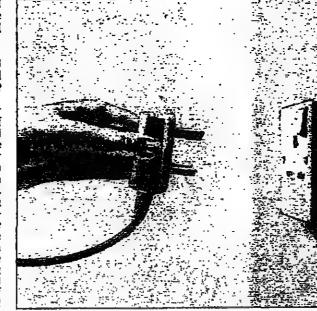
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Should I hang on to the shares or sell?

A Hang on, say analysts and advisers. Both PowerGen and National Power have taken a battering but they promise solid returns. "In the longer term you are buying into the dominant players

in the UK generating market," said Ian Graham, an analyst at NatWest Securities. Justin Urquhart-Stewart of Barclays Stockbrokers said both offer good dividend growth: "Stick

with them." Part-paid shares in Peps should also be held and people who opted for bonus shares should stay in as these will be issued only after the shares have been held for

three years. The expected MMC go-ahead for each of the bids will deliver further

benefits to shareholders. But, said Donna Lury, an an-alyst at Nikko Securities, even if the bids are blocked. "both companies have a lot of looking for a home which could mean share

buybacks." Such a move is likely to beef up the share price further.

election what will hap-If Labour wins the next pen to privatised utilities?

With Labour's move A away from renationalising pledges, utilities have

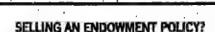
costs of administration. How have PowerGen and National Power fully paid shares performed?

Power. On dividend perform-

ance, they are among the top

A They have risen 189 per cent for PowerGen and 150 per cent for National

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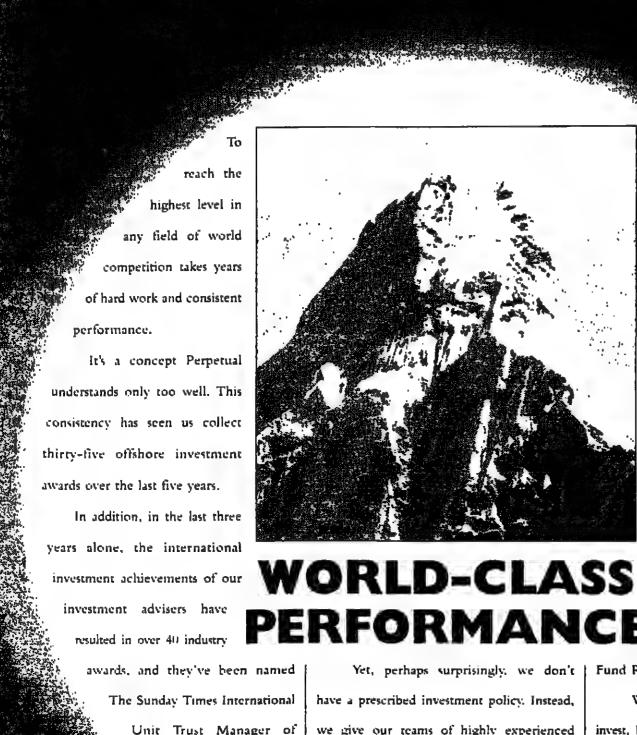
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6 out of 6 funds are in the top 25% of their sectors for their performance over 5 years. Positions are to 1st January 1996 and are on an offer-to-offer US Dollar basis,

melusive of reinvested income, net of withholding taxes (source, Micropal). Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of an investment and the income from it can go down as well as up (this may partly be a result of exchange rate fluctuations) and you may not get back the amount invested.

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Mer 55? Why? Moyatax free

Karen Zagor on Wall Street's technology-led fall

Decline that need not be terminal

cast-iron stomach are essential when investing in US technology stocks, as anyone who has weathered the latest lurch on Wall Street will have discovered.

AND THE

The technology sector has been driving the overall US stock market up and down for a year. In 1995, the stellar performance of technology stocks in the first six months helped to propel the Dow lones industrial average to record levels. But on Tuesday, it tumbled 67.55 points to 5,130.13 in a decline that was triggered by losses in the technology sector. The Nasdaq Composite Index, which is heavily weighted towards technology stocks, dropped 33.55 points to 998.82. Many technology shares fell even further on Wednesday, before the sector started to stage a recovery on Thursday.
This week's decline was

sparked both by a number of factors including a negative report on technology stocks by a leading analyst and disappointing profit news from a number of companies. And sales of Windows 95, the

erves of steel and a Microsoft operating system fined to offices. More and for personal computers that more homes have personal was launched last summer, were not as high as some expected. The erosion continued through the week after Motorola, a giant cellular telephone company, posted disappointing fourth quarter earnings.

Ed Yardeni, chief economist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell in New York, said: The technology sector is generally volatile, and stocks have been annihilated this week. There's probably room for some intelligent stock-picking now, but prices may fall even further. It's an industry where the most sophisticated gadgets can become commodities in a very short space of time, so pricing is very difficult for these stocks. In general, the sector is treacherous and tricky, so individual investors should be careful not to overweight technology stocks in

their portfolios." Yet there are strong reasons why these stocks appeal to risk-minded investors. The presence of computer technology in daily life is growing. Computers are no longer con-

computers. Computer chips can be found in everything from aircraft instruments to coffee makers. As long as the technology continues to evolve, investors who spot a new company with a winning product stand to make a fortune. For example, anyone who bought into the California Internet software company Netscape Communications when it went public last August is still looking at large profits. The offering was priced at \$28 and quickly soured to a high of \$174 last year. On Tuesday, the shares foll or \$193, the shares

er than their IPO level. Analysts are still debating whether technology companies are cyclical or not. The latest technology self-off was widely seen as a market correction for a sector that had become overpriced rather than a shift in the fundamental outlook for the industry. Technology share prices are likely to remain volatile as long as share prices reflect sentiment instead of financial performance.



THERE was a time when Apple Computer could do no wrong. Its personal computers were considered superior to anything the IBM-compatible computer companies could produce. But now Microsoft has come out with Windows 95, a software programme which allows IBM-compatible machines to match many of Apple's features. As a result, Apple's future is less certain. Analysts say the company has not responded quickly enough to the Microsoft challenge, and there has been concern about the company's management. IBM is still trying to prove that it can effect a turnaround after its breathtaking losses of 1993. In 1994, the company posted its first annual profit since 1990. Compaq Computer is now the leading US personal computer maker, although its market share recently slipped slightly to 12 per cent from 13 per cent. Other US big computer companies include Hewlett-Packard, Deli and Gateway 2000.

MICROSOFT dominates the software sector. Its ing that smaller companies can only thrive by finding a niche where they do not come head-to-head with Microsoft. Microsoft is trying to stave off the threat of competition in the Internet software market. Rivals include Broderbund, maker of education programmes, Oracle and Sun



The road ahead could take a few turns for Bill Gates, the head of Microsoft. Some believe sales of his company's Windows 95 operating systems are not as high as they could be.

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MIERNET ...

AS the stock market performance of Netscape shares indicates, the Internet is believed to be the way of the future. The Internet is a global computer network that can be used for research and low-cost communications. It is accessible to anyone with a PC and a phone connection, and companies that make the software and hardware to access the next are expected to flourish. The biggest challenge to Intel and Microsoft is expected to come from the Internet sector. On the software side, Netscape's worldwide web browser remains the suffware of choice, although it is now being challenged by Microsoft. Sun Micro systems is the

main supplier of Internet.

server computers.

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worlds.

SEMICONDLICTOR SECTOR

SEMICONDUCTORS are the chips that make computers run. They include memory chips, such as D-Rams (Dynamic Random Access Memory), which are responsible for the computer's memory, and microprocessors, which are often called "brain" chips because they allow the computer to figure out what it must do.

In the world of technology stocks, the semiconductor sector has been the most volatile. Semiconductors can be found wherever computer technology exists. And the scope ion is enormous. For the mome outlet for semiconductor sales is the personal computer market, so the fortunes of semiconductor companies are largely determined by the sales performance of the computer companies they are selling their chips to. But a semiconduc tor company's financial performance is also determined by the quality of its chips, its ability to market it products and the number of competitors producing similar products.

The D-Ram market posted a dramatic rise last year, with a 40 per cent increase in the worldwide market, according to figures from Dataquest, the US market research company. Sales are expected to rise another 29 per cent next year. Intel is the world's largest supplier of microprocessors to the personal computer industry and its Pentium chip is now the leading microprocessor on the market. Other big semiconductor companies include Texas Instruments. Cirrus Logic, Advanced Micro Devices, National Semiconductor and LSI Logic.

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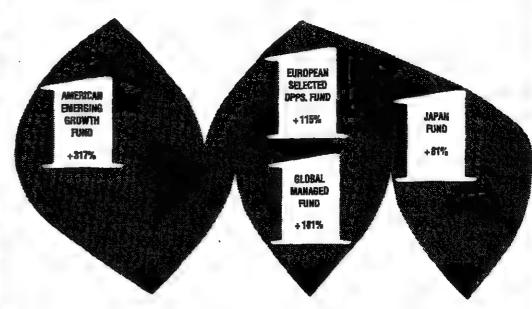
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Chase de Vere Investments has published its 1996 Pepguide and Pep Performance Charts, covering 1.190 personal equity plan schemes and including 117 new corpo-rate bond Peps. The guide costs £12.95, which is refundable if a Pep is subsequently purchased via Chase de Vere. For a copy, write to Chase de Vere Investments plc, 63 Lin-coln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3JX or call 0800 526092

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Separation covers the financial aspects of this subject and is available free to readers of The Times. Call The Solicitors Trust on 0990 11 22 32.

■ Managers of Mercury As-set's £500 million privatisation investment trust have announced an abolition of dealing charges for 1996. This follows Mercury's December launch of a share buy-back scheme designed to reduce the discount at which the European Privatisation Trust shares trade while simultaneously increasing their net asset value. This offer is available to investors who enrol before March 31 and existing savers. Call 0500 050066.

Poverty lies at the root of most debt, according to the Debt Advice Handbook, which includes guidance on negotiating with creditors and covers business and student debts. The handbook is published by the Child Poverty Action Group. Send a cheque/PO for E9.95 to CPAG Ltd. 1-5 Bath Street, London ECIV 9PY.

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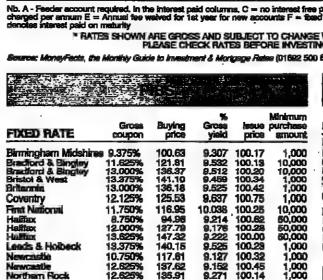
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Bristol & West BS 0800 303330	Direct Access	Postal	25.000	5.75	Υh
Manchester BS 0161 839 5545	Money by Mail	Postal	£25,000	6.25	Yh
Skipton BS 01756 700511	High Street	nstant	£30,000	6.50	YIŞ
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Manchester BS 0161 834 9465	45 Day	45 day	55,000	6.25	Ylý
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Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505		5 Year	E8.575	7.25	F/Yly
Chellenham & Glouc 0000 717505		5 Year	£3,000	7.25	Ylv

Principality BS 01222 344188	51	fear ·	£25 7.2	5 Yiy
CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/S&P 0600 829024 Royal Bank of Scotland 0600 161616 Frizzall Bank 0600 373181	MasterCard/Visa MasterCard MasterCard/Visa	0.96%G 1.14% 1.17%	12.10% 14.50% 16.10%	Nii C Nii C £11

PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment or with insurance	no insurance
Direct Line 0141 2489966	14.90%	E114.41	2102.59
Midland 0800 180180	15,40%	2116.54	£109.14
Abbey National 0345 545556	15.50%	2115.18	£103.26

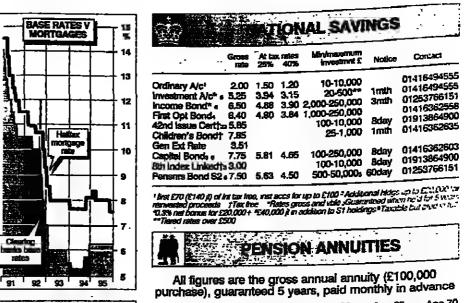
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on: MoneyFects, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)	

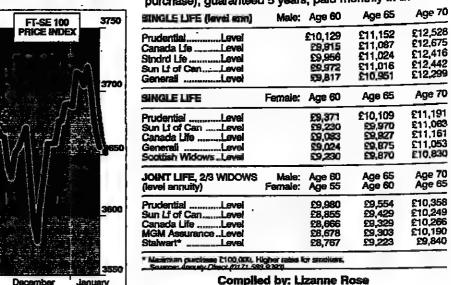


Skipton	12.875%	135.92	9.455	100.48	1,000
FLOATING RATE	Gross	Buyin pric		ssue orice	Minimum purchase
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Buying price	Gross yield		Minimum purchase amount	Lender .	Interest rate %	Loan stze	Max %	Notes
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136.37	9.512	100,20	10,000	Northern Rock	1.19	to £100k	90	6.25% discount
141.10	9.459	100.34	1,000	0600 591 500				to 1.3.97
136.18	9.525	100.42	1,000	Yorkshire	1.59	neg	95	6% disc 1 year,
125.53	9.637	100.75	1,000	0800 378836				2% disc 18 mths
116.95	10.038	100.25	10,000	Banko				
94.98	9.214	100.62		Barciava	3.74	£15k+	90	3,75% discount
127.78	9.176	100.28		0800 000929	0.74	LIGHT	-	for 1 year
147.32	9.222	100.00		Next Wonderslawler	2.54	£15k+	76	5,20% disc 1 yr.
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Lender	framus gate %	Loan	Max %	Notes
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Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	0.35	to £150k	70	7.14% discount for 9 months
Northern Rock 0900 591500	1.19	2190k+	90	6.25% discount to 1.3.97
Banko Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.00%dsc-6 mth, 3% dsc-8 mth
Benk of Scotland 0131 243-5735	1.50	to £200k	95	6.49% discount for 6 months





Prudential	Lovei		£10,129	£11,152	£12,52
Canada Life			29,915	211,087	£12,67
Stndrd Lie			£9,956	£11.024	£12,41
Sun Lifof Can			29,972	£11,016	£12,44
			59,817	£10,951	£12,29
General	LEYER		1,19,617	2.10,501	
SINGLE LIFE		Female:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 7
Prudential	Level		£9,371	£10,109	£11,19
Sun Li of Can			29,230	59,970	£11,06
Canada Life			29,083	59,927	£11,16
Generali			£9,024	29,875	£11,05
Soottish Widows.			59,230	29,870	E10.83
JOINT LIFE, 2/3	WIDOWS	Male:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 7
(level annuity)		Female:	Age 55	Age 60	Age 6
Prudential	Levei		£9,980	£9,554	£10,35
Sun Lf of Can			£8,855	£9,429	€10,24
Canada Life			28,666	29,329	€10,26
MGM Assurance			£8,678	£9,303	£10,19
Stalwart*			28.767	29,223	£9,84
* Maximum purchase Source: Annualy Dis	2100,000. H	igher ratio	or strokers.		
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0121 600 6147	3.75	£15K+	95	5.74% discount for 12 months				
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6% disc 5 mnths,

1.75% disc 1 year

7.00% disc 6 mth, 3.00% disc 6 mth

3.74% discount

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	CANADA LIPE 16 Viga Strong Polices Day (Date ENG SIA 97707 9122	Oversens Equity 3(4,10 104.40 - 1.20 North American 171,40 180.50 - 1.40 Pacific Bestin 170,50 186.10 - 0.50 Furnment 34.40 25.55 a.100		Property: 429.50 + 0.60	Japan Squity Act 12450 131.80 - 4.60 Namer Act 16450 172.40 - 4.60	Safety Fund 257.60 - 0.50	Immed Annuity i 307.50
Money Ser 4 342.10 360.20 • 0.40 Fixed int Ser 4 765.00 365.30 • 1.00	Equity Growth 3 277.00	Europeus 261.40 273.25 + 1.00 Property 163.50 163.20 + 0.35 Physician 282.10 272.00 + 0.46 Index Linked 179.20 188.80 - 0.50	HILL SAMUEL LIFE NIA Tower, Addisonaby Road, Craydon BUT 185 4855	International : 327.80 0.10 International : 327.80 2.10 Equity A : 228.60 1.10	Pecific act 144,40 177,70 = 0.40 Ecoppen Act 143,30 203,40 • 5.40	Chih Fund 181.70 191.30 • 0.10 European Fund 389.20 409.70 • 0.00	SUN LIFE OF CANADA
American Ser 4 560.70 590.30 -10.40 High Inc Ser 4 757.80 757.76 - 2.50 Indexed Lev Ser 4 254.60 256.50 - 0.80 Jupan Ser 4 364.50 262.76 - 7.80	Eguity Growth 3 277.00 Mario 3.10 Mario 1.00 Mario 1.10 Mario 1.1	CARD 209.50 220.60 + 0.20	Security Fund 984.20 622.50 - 4.30	Property A1 188,70 + 0,30	PEABL ASSURANCE The Pearl Cestre, Lyuch Wood, Peterborangh PE24FY, 0733 470 470	I Index Inter 64 192.91 202.70 - 1195	Basingvice, Basingstoke, Haute RG3 202 Dealing 0256 8044 Ground Art 1467 97
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Loss, Potters Ber ENGIAL	Sepairy 18-20 18-20 -4.40	Deposis 350.40 375.10 + 0.30	Dellar Pund 665.70 472.91 -12.97 Capital Pund 547.20 579.10 - 1.40	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Inv Prop Dist 144.80 152.50 + 0.10 Prop Act (Criss) 124.90 342.00 + 0.10 Inv Ranfay 1350.90 1422.10 - 30.90	Interrestional Pd 315.50 222.20 - 3.50 North American 20.00 285.30 - 3.00 Property Fund 12.9.20 18.6.0 - 0.10 UK Equity 277.50 282.20 - 3.50 UK Smaller 273.00 286.00 - 0.30	Equity Acrount 8 1/65.40 +16.30
61707 42311 Equity Fd. Act: 1724-90 1818.60 -21.20 European Fd. Act: 409.50 431.00 - 2.10 Physician Act: 953.70 982.80 + 1,00	Homes Pand 792.40 E34.10 - 6.50 Properly Pund 517.30 544.51 - 14.10 Embr Pund 1047.40 1102.70 - 11.10 Gate Edged 9d 177.10 706.40 - 10.40	Australian 579.90 610.40 = 5.50	Property Dolor 774.70 813.50 4.50 Francial Fund 891.70 722.00 - 10.40	Index Stock A.2 178.25 - 0.16	Toy Managed 945.90 975.70 - 9.79 But Managed 1077.50 [134.30 - 6.70		Equity Fand Acc 903.43 694.60 + 8.30 Prop Fand Acc 284.00 282.10 + 0.20 Physical Rev 2017 50 282.10 + 0.40
Old Money Act 348.90 367.20 + 0.20	From 107.50 102.70 10.00 10.	Income AEC 823.60 866.90 - 4.40 -do-Dist 464.10 493.70 - 3.40 4.94 International 343.70 but 70 - 3.40	Managed Ser A 807.10 642.50 - 4.70 Managed Units 1091.00 1148.50 - 8.50	Deposit ? 765.10 + 0.20 Mixed ? 605 3.50 Index Stock ? 264.90	Ter Provident Mutual see General Accident PRUDENTIAL	6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 21/A 058 56 988 1000 2000 318.80 - 1.40	Indx-Link Ses Ac 218.10 239.60 • 1.10 Pers Pens Acct : 2157.20 •27.10
	CITY OF WESTAGNSTER ASSURANCE	Impan Smaller 494.70 499.10 - 8-40 Singapore 8 Mai 423.20 445.40 + 3.00	Money Series A 101.00 319.20 + 0.20 Money Units 401.40 402.60 + 0.40 Equity Pand 497.00 737.60 - 6.70	INTERNATIONAL PARAGO 2.80 LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE Winshie Park Enter EXS IDS, 8392 28366	Helbers Bari, Lendon ECIN ZNH 0071405 9222 Managed 309.50 408.50 + 3.80	Mined	Pens Gouranne 275.00 289.50 + 0.10 Pens Emily 389.40 409.90 + 7.30
Prop Pd Acc 451.0 477.2 + 0.50 Multiple Inv Acc 1132.50 1192.40 - 5.70 ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE	Scotty House, 500 Architery 2016. Million Ruysen M&O 2NU. Credit (Section Property Fund 103-40 177200 Humager Rund 1974-10 733.00 - 7.45 Zepity Fund 40-10 425-20 - 6-40	Tolgro Pand 662-90 697.70 -173.0 UE Equity 633-90 667.20 - 440 CCM Yangd Mg 800.30 674.00 - 7.40	Fixed Interest 394.00 422.30 ÷ 0.70 Indexed Secs 199.20 210.80 ÷ 0.70 European Fund 841.40 890.40 ÷ 0.10 Natural Res 354.50 354.00 ÷ 3.60		PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS I Stephen Street, London WIF ZAP 6171 568 3278	Index Linked 19250 20270 - 0.80	1 Pens Inc 270.83 295.60 + 4.01
Swinders SNI IEL SKN3 SMSM Per Int Den Arts 189,60 410,40 + 0.40	CLERICAL MEDICALIFIDELITY	GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD Album Gate, 14th Fir. 125 London Well, Lond ECZY SAS, 8171 780 4867	Far East Pund 705.20 746.30 = 7.40 Strailler Con 542.70 574.30 = 0.60 Strail City 572 50 544.50 2.10	Property Cap # 142.80 + 0.20 + 0.40 + 0.40 + 0.40 - 0.40	Managed Fund 905.00 951.76 - 6.80 Equity Pund 1740.70 1832.40 -19.70 Just Fund 720.70 758.70 - 6.60	Formerly Feedble 1971.00 1981.40 19.30 1981.40 19.30 1981.40 19.30 1981.40 19.30 1981.40 19.30 19.30	Pens Money 250.90 264.10 • 0.30 Pens Indo-Luisi 204.60 220.70 • 0.10
Pad Int Dep Acs 999,80 410,46 • 0.40 Equity Acr 1587.50 1671,10 -13,70 Property Acr 699,50 641,60 • 0.90 Far East Acr 334,70 332,00 -146 Managed Capital 391,00 611,60 • 1.80	INVESTMENTS Plant BS QUIL 117 STATE ADDRESS FUND SOUTH	GT Flan Per East 340.10 ASLOD + 3.70 GT Plan Wwide \$20.60 \$48.00 - 7.60	Nam Currency 278.90 285.20 • 0.50 Reparese Tech 228.90 348.10 • 8.30 US Smaller Cos 338.50 258.30 • 4.80	*Go-Acct 343.70 = L30 Equity Carp : 342.80 = 5.70 -do-Acct 540.60 = 4.30	Property Profes 489.00 514.80 Property Profes 489.00 514.80	Equity Pend 1011.30 1075.90 - 7.30 Find Interest Pland 308.30 535.70 - 0.30	SUN LIFE UNIT Si James Barton, Britani RS99 751.
Managed Capital 581.00 611.60 - 2.40 do-Acc 1219.10 1282.30 - 7.80	Sapphire Mined 231.60 336.60 - 1.10 Ruby 191.40 201.50 - 0.10 Experaid 155.00 161.20 - 0.10 Equity 371.00 390.40 - 2.40 Property 222.10 244.40 - 0.30	GAN LIFE & PENSIONS GAN House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW, 91279 436262	Rommerly Tanget Life Assurance Co Ltd Deposit	God Decouit Cont. 167.00 0.10	Pactic Sasio 406.70 428.20 - 2.80	FIG. 100 ACC 1	017 9426011
GH Edged Art 504 IO 56230 • 1.10 Amer Edgity Art 951.90 1002.00 - 8.00 Amer Man Acc 98.10 449.10 • 2.90	GD & Dividing 222 BO 234 80 w (19)	Portfolio Acc 757.80 757.80 = 0.60	Fixed institute 356-10 374-90	-do-Acct 27190 + 0.10 7.20 Plexible Cup 1 363.10 4.70	Strategic Paris 189,30 199.30 - 210	Special State - 1.50	Egally Acc 1647.00 1723.70 -17.10 Fixed Int Acc 441.90 465.20 • 1.30 Cish Acc 323.80 340.90 • 1.30
Amer Prop Act 116.70 L22.90 • 0.50 Distribution Bonds 24.90 25.10 - 0.10	Cash 196.00 206.40 + 0.20	UK Equity 450.00 480.70 - 2.40 GR Pies 218.80 230.40 Managed 399.20 257.40 - 0.30	Property 331.80 348.50	Moneymaker Pd 1 683.00 5.90 Cupited Growth 1 1932.1028.20	ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE Peierbarough Business Park, Peterbarough PE26GG, 07233 390000	GR Fond 515.80 548.80	Amer Equity Acc 449.50 473.20 -11.90 Jugan Acc 312.30 328.00 - 2.70 Partitle Acr 500.00 431 - 2.40
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amerikana Rond, High Wyensior, Bedos 81494 465423	Special Sits 390,10 410,70 - 0,10 Incl income 327 90 345,20 - 1,80	GENERAL ACCIDENT	Residential Prop 101.20 108.70 7.66	M & G Victoria Road, Chaimaford, Hour CMI LPB 01245-266266	Mult Grow (45) 2 814.80	Secure Mgd 162.20 171.00 - 0.40 Squity lie: Disc 122.00 124.90 - 0.10 4.16 Managed Disc 118.60 128.00 - 0.10 6.30	Far Eastern Act 897.00 944.20 = 6.70 International Act 666.90 702.10 = 8.50 Distribution Fund 282.70 700.00 = 7.70 No. 2
Reserve Ser 6 171.60 190.60 + 0.20	144.00 151.00 + 0.70	2 Rougher St. Yerk YOT ITHE. 01904 628982 Managed 222.80 344.90 - 1.80 Unitised Profit 47.70 155.40 + 0.20 11K Equity 223.10 540.00 - 2.50 Phod Int 211.70 222.70 + 0.30	TSE Brit C=th 970.50 HB1.20 -10.80 TSE European 303.90 120.00 TSE Income 42.40 444.70 -4.40 TSE Ind 16 224.00 441.70 -5.60 TSE Ind 16 224.00 141.90 -0.50	Arner Bond Acc 499.50 534.60 - 8.10 Amer Rec Bond 550.20 577.90 -11.30 Am Spair Cos Bd 261.50 274.70 - 5.50 Australiasia Bd 258.10 266.00 - 0.80	Op Egetty 113.50 1172.10 - 10.80 Op High Yield 642.40 676.20 - 5.00 Op Munsteri 908.80 996.60 - 6.70	SCOTTISH WIDOWS	Buropean 213.20 234.50 - 0.10 Defind Dist 184.90 194.70 - 0.90
Dignibution Serie 104.70 10.20 - 0.30 6.78	SE Asia 997.10 418.00 + L30 With Professing 176.60 185.90 + 0.25 -do-Spec 176.60 185.90 + 0.20 Feedble Retirement Plans Funds	UK Equity 123.10 340.00 - 2.50 Fixed Ins 211.70 222.70 + 0.50 Index-Linked 175.80 185.00 - 0.50 Cash Depudit 181.30 140.80 + 0.20	TSS Ind inc 1040 341.80 - 0.50 TSS Pacific 4940 46240 - 1.00 TSS Prem inc 295.40 267.70 - 0.70	Attention		PO Box 902, Eduburgh EE10 FBU 933 655 6000 1 pv Pol 4 1090.70 1090.70 = 1.60	TSB LLFE LTD Charles Place, Audiewer, Hann, SP10 (RE 01264 345678
North Amer Ser 6 517.50 551.20 -19.30 Par Face Ser 6 607.20 639.10 - 6.30	Presence searcepoint False states Mined 70.20 389.80 = 2.40 Equity 448.30 472.00 = 5.30 Property 213.40 224.70 + 0.10 Gitt & Fluxel Int. 283.00 277.40 + 0.50	Property 181.20 190.60 + 0.90	IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Link Life Centre, Victoria Seves, & Alisans, Herts ALI 517, 08727 48881	European Bd Acr 433.30 455.10 + 1.00 Britan Yid Bd Acr 814.30 883.20 -10.00 Fitr East Bd Acr 335.90 362.80 - 1.20	Managed Oth 309.40 325.60 - 2.50 Oth State	104 Corb : 379.40 487.00 = 1.40	Monaged Fund 317.20 333.93 : 240
Intel Ser 6 636.10 669.50 -11.50 Property Ser 6 574.70 604.90 + 0.70	I ledge lighted 100 to 70 To - 045	Input 244.20 256.90 - 7.70	Herts ALI 51% 00727 4080 Global Managed 640.30 674.00 - 4.70 Global Property 312.20 328.70	Gilt Brand Act 479.70 503.86 • 0.80	Global Inc & Gol 188.20 198.10 -12.30 Gold Share 98.50 103.90 + 5.10 Kigh Incolve 331.20 340.20 +10.90 Incurs 480.50 512.40 - 3.30	Figurity Fund 640.50 662.70 - 5.20 Property Fund 445.20 201.40	Fixed Interest Pd 245.50 259.00 • 0.80 Money Pund 209.40 220.60 • 0.20 Equity Paped 413.40 435.20 • 3.40
Ind-Laint Ser So 19230 20140 - 0.70 Greed Dep Ser 6 310.80 127.10 + 0.30	Nn American 339.20 396.10 - 5.70 Far East Acz 116.70 354.50	Contr 100 140/40 147 70 + 0.10	Global Managed 670.30 674.00 - 4.70 Global Property 312.20 328.70 Global Property 312.20 328.70 - 1.40 Global Equity 672.60 729.10 - 6.50 Global Equity 672.60 729.10 - 6.50	Index-Lok Gl 8d 221.70 232.90 - 1.00 International 8d 839.00 881.10 - 4.30 Rosen Sond Acc 256.20 289.10 - 6.50	Income 486.00 512.00 - 3.30 Jupan 440.90 444 - 13.00 UK Smir-Cus 498.30 429.20 - 6.10 Magd Gravita 514.90 541.90 - 3.40	Fixed Interest Pd 415.80 437.80 + 1.30 Indeted Stock Pd 211.40 222.60 - 0.70 Cash Fund 238.40 251.00 + 0.20	WINDSOR LIFE
BARCLAYS LIFE 257 Rossferd Read, Leadon 17 VB 0151 534 554	European Fies. 524.50 552.20 + 3.50	Managed Ord \$32.50 \$60.90 = 3.30 Managed Initial 146.40 364.60 = 2.50 Equity Ord #23.10 866.40 = 6.10	LAURENTIAN LIFE	Japan Sm Cos Ac 244.80 257.20 - 1.50 Managed Bonds 951.70 999.40 - 19.90 Prop Bond Acc 364.90 383.30 - 2.00 Rec Bond Acc 888.50 880.50 - 22.60	Magd Grawth 51490 54490 - 340 ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool 149 3418	SKANDIA LITE	Windoor Home, Tellord, Surapskire 0952 292929 Managed Bond 773.90 815.50 • 7.00 Money Fund 331.90 344.40 • 0.30
Equity Acc 953.40 1933.61 - 6.30 6.00	COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Manual Home, Chathan Mariless, Keni ME44YY, 81834 990 900 (Units): Kryl 23.18 + 4.61	FLinbrd Gib Ord 21170 224.90 - 0.80	Superiord Gloncester GLA 782 01452 373571 127	MACH ACCIDANCE	New Half Plate, Liverproof 109 3113 93 209 3000 Royal Shield Fd 1087.60 1150.80 - 7.10 Royal Life Unit Linked	Skandin House, Portland Tarrico, Santhampton SOPTEX 01703-33441	Fixed Interest 306.10 745.50 +19.60 Prized Prized 106.10 322.20 + 1.20 Prized Prized 106.10 346.10
-do-Indried 20160 20540 - 240	-do-Cash 211.39 222.52 • 0.15	Filiated GRI table 145.20 5.2,00 - 0.70	American 489.00 514.70 ~11.30 UK Equity Pd 504.80 531.30 ~ 4.20	ENTI 2DY. 01903 204691 UK Equity 246.90 299.90 - 2.70		Managed Act 425.60 480.00 - 4.00 Squily Act 17.00 544.30 - 8.00 International Act 379.60 599.50 - 210 Propery 222.00 244.20 - 0.10	Gresbum Franklington American & Chris 681.80 666.80 -23.30 Insume 255.40 869.80 - 24.30
do (nittal 372.70 392.40 - 2.30 Money Act 103.90 319.90 • 0.20 Property Act 109.30 524.60 • 0.40	-do-Paulint 393.05 413.74 + 0.95 -do-Managed 432.02 454.76 - 2.08 -do-Proceny 287.44 302.57 + 1.78		Index-likd 196.00 206.30 - 0.60 High Yield 939.70 989.10 - 5.60 Manuer 420.20 42.50 - 0.30	Special Size 100.40 105.70 - 1.00 Special Size Acc 147.30 153.10 - 1.20 Horth American 204.60 217.50 - 4.30	International 515.70 563.80 - 1.80 Pacific Basin 291.50 306.80		Captal Pund 690 90 728.00 - 0.20
-do-Taitial 196.10 206.50 • 0.10	(Peast: Cash Casp 212.13 223.30 + 0.09 do-Cash Inv 322.79 39.79 + 0.37 do-Equity Casp £15.75 £16.59 -15.51	Deposit Initial 140.40 147.80 + 0.10	International 49430 46240 - 4.60 Renderson Arrive 70 30 36240 - 230	Partific Basin 326.20 319.00 - 6.20	SAVE & PROSPER	STANDARD LIFE ABRURANCE CO 3 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 202. 0631 225 2552. Cast: 205.00 • 0.30	Pormerly Africa Life Funds
Financial Acc 412.20 433.90 - 6.00 500 Accam 483.30 506.80 - 0.40 Japan Geni Acc 316.10 232.90 - 8.00	- do- Equity line 123.97 125.23 -21.89 - do- Fixed Cap 423.04 445.94 - 0.55 - do- Fixed law 644.64 678.58 - 1.29	CUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3. 9(7) 283 789 Ass Prop 3ds 130.30 962.10 Hanged Initial 90.20 535.00 440 do-acc 743.20 783.90 - 6.20	Growth Acc 721.30 759.20 - 5.60 Gilk Edged 465.40 489.80 - 0.00 Entrotest 172.20 181.20 - 0.40	Placed Interest 207.30 313.00 - 0.20	W-22 Western Road, Remiord, Essex RM 3LS - 01705 18956	Beshy 1158.40 1219.40 - 8.20 European 188.10 198.19 - 0.86 Bur East 184.90 194.70 - 2.60	Squinrei 18.86 19.85 0.03 Beatr 21.73 22.87 - 0.10 Owl 23.40 24.53 - 0.32 Bull 19.94 2000 - 0.00
DECEMBER ACT	-do-index Cap 209.03 220.05 - 0.73 -do-index inv 318.09 334.94 - 0.89 -do-Marei Cap 670.73 667.09 - 620	Vanily Invited 775.70 E16.90 = 9.30	Far East 226,80 238,70 + [.0]	Deposit 153.60 161.70 + 0.10 1	Deposit Fond (2) 391.90 414.80 + 0.50 7.06	Pixed Interest 440.30 463.50 1.60	Stag 20.95 22.05 - 0.06
Univ Tech Acc 176.10 185.40 - 1.50 BLACK HORSE LIFE	COMMERCIAL UNION		LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 2 Monteflore Rend, Hove, States BNS 188, 01273-824000	Managed 280.40 295.20 - 2.40 Managed Acc 379.00 399.00 - 3.20	Global Equity Rd 299.30 274.40 - 1.60 Property Fund (46) 116.70 121.50 + 0.20 7.23 AG Bond Fund 160.30 169.70 - 0.20	Mininger 174.00 840.70 - 5.30	Penadora 16.43 17.24 • 0.03
Mountmites House, Chathaus, Kent ME4 41F 01634 834000	St Helen's, 1 Underskaß, EC3 0771 283 7500 Var Ann Acc (S) 2 814.94 7.75 Var Ann (S) 2 101.40 0.50	HON Apper Initial 215.80 227.10 - 7.90	B Sec Lakel light 134.80 141.90	MERCHANT INVESTORS St Burtholomew House, Levius Mead	SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 0141 245 2223	Pensions Cash: 462.70 466.10 + 0.50	Owl 3165 34.37 - 0.26 3mil 26.39 27.78 - 0.79
The Managed Fd 891.26 891.26 - 7.27 . Income Fund 837.12 881.17 - 8.91 Exem facome: 764.03 804.25 - 7.41 Worldwide Gth 538.19 \$66.52 - 4.38	Prime Managed 443.0 466.70 - 3.60	10-Act 287 10 302.20 -111.90 redificininal 249.50 262.60 - 0.30	-do-Act 205.50 216.40 - 2.30	Bristol BS1 2N/H 0117 9266 366	Equity 669.90 705.20 - 7.70 Fixed interest 405.00 427.40 - 3.10 Index-Linked 208.20 219.20 - 1.30	Bootly 1737.30 1828.20 =16.00 Suropeun 101.40 243.00 = 0.40 Par Had 150.70 158.70 = 2.70 Shad Interest 180.20 65.10 + 1.70	Stag 27.17 20.00 + 0.11 Gift Sages 25.98 27.35 - 0.0h Deposit 21.55 22.66 + 0.04
Smile Cas Recov 880.60 9245 - 0.42 Namer & Genet 419.19 441.26 - 7.09	Prime: Int Equity 325.20 342.40 - 3.60 Prime: Property 255.60 269.10 Prime: Part Int 253.50 269.10 + 0.20 Prime: Index-Link 181.30 160.90 - 0.40	Maria 259.80 273.40	Equity initial 721.80 761.90 - 9.90 -do-act 1287.20 1353.00 - 17.90 Fixed initial 361.00 383.30 - 0.50	UK Equity 404.20 425.40 - 6.00 Glik Edged 634.90 667.80 - 0.60	International 508.10 515.90 - 130 Property 302.40 748.40 + 0.40 Cash 240.40 253.10 + 0.10	Index Linked 315.10 H1.20 - 1.00	3-Way Fund 650.95 8.77
Pacific Basin 452.27 (76.08 - 2.27 German Growth 253.11 258.54 - 2.64 Japan Growth 198.93 209.40 - 1.18	Prime Cmh 214.70 226.00 + 0.10	#60-Act 221.93 233.50 - 1.40 Dygwir lattini 201.49 212.00 #60-Act 294.40 309.90 + 0.20	-do-Acc 647.60 681.70 - 0.20 Index-Labd Gil: 137.90 548.20 - 0.50	Managad Rd 532.80 560.80 - 4.50 Lott Equity 648.20 662.30 - 1.80 North American 241.70 254.40 - 5.10	Managed 522.60 590.20 - 4.60 . Cup Gleed Bd 129.70 136.60 - 1.90	Managed 1164.50 L22.70 - 6.50 thi American 223.30 21.83 - 5.30 roperty 220.00 548.80 - 0.00 Slock Exchange 204.20 276.10 - 2.60	N A20er Equity 128 345.26 -12.20
This LTR Gults Pol 236.88 249.35 - 3.27 Cooki Euro Gifa 157.69 159.68 - 0.18	Lymna Way, Stevensge, Hests SGI 2NN 04435744540 Managed Roed 1219.50 1283.60 +13.20	Euro Initial 117.00 123.50 • 0.30 -de-Age 144.10 151.90 • 0.50	Ind India 348.50 368.40 - 3.10 -do-Acc 610.10 642.30 - 4.50 Managed India: 513.40 541.00 - 500	Per Bas: 46.60 512.40 - 1.30 Ind Currency 265.40 279.30 + 0.90	SOUTTISH EQUITABLE S Author Square, Edinburgh EH2 (YF	SUN ALLIANCE	721.78 131.72 - 0.66 24th Depois 211.96 225.22 - 0.39 Property 149.07 156.02 - 1.71
Property Fund 411.25 432.90 - 0.49 Flord Interes 245.75 303.95 • 0.12 Cash Fund 295.15 310.69 • 0.24 Manualted Lity 536.16 564.37 - 4.71	Equity (1 1760.10 1852.40 +20.80	PO DEE 25, YeA YOU IYO OP BIOLISH	-do-Ast 913.00 901.90 - 8.90 Property initial 219.90 231.30 + 0.30 -do-Ast 391.00 411.60 + 0.50	NPI 45 Gracechurch Street, Landon ECSP SHIH	200 180.60 190.624 + 0.18 .	St Mark's Court, Horsham, Season.	Managed M3.32 361.39 - 4.93
Nih Amerikasir 277.79 292.42 - 4.23 Abrust Fund Managed Orth \$28.30 \$56.11 • 0.36	EACLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Membeller Drive, Chellenkon, GLS37LQ.	Lim Farm Foundation	LINCOLN NATIONAL	0171 423 4200 Managed Salah 577 In - 3 50	Index-Linked 172.10 181.00 - 0.90 Fixed Interest 199.30 209.30 - 0.30 Mixed 288,10 203.30 - 0.70 UK Equity 274.70 289.40 - 1.70	Sunaged Fund 757.10 797.00 - 7.60 Equity Fund 1002.20 1055.00 -12.40 Fixed Interest Fit 446.60 472.00 - 0.30 Index-Vinked Fd 360.00 287.00 - 1.70	His Manga Acc 643.60 677,40
BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE PO Box 37, Greened, Renfrondisce	0/242 22/34] 100 mode 10	Opportunity 28.67 30.39 - 0.22 24.62 25.92 - 0.01	1 Olympic Way, Wessbiry, Middy HA90NB BIBI 902 9076	Oversion Equity 541.50 569.90 = 6.10 American 483.90 514.60 = 7.60 For Sect. 618.70 651.20 = 5.60	American 310.70 327.20 - 2.30	Property Fund 533.60 501.70 + L20	Life int Tit Act 842:10 884-40
PO 808 34 CECCARA, RESIDENCE BASS 94800 Measured Perf 176.90 187.10 - 0.60 Performance Plus 188.20 199.10 - 1.30	Secure (2: 101.90 + 0.10 Managed (3: 105.40 0.60 Equity Mand (3: 105.40 0.10	Foundation 25.54 30.04 - 0.16 Salanced 25.75 30.27 - 0.19 Openstunity 24.36 30.93 - 0.29	Property Units: #22.10 + 0.31 Bal Bal Exec Unit 72.84 70.81 0.25 2nd Expirty Acc 691.20 727.60 - 0.30 Znd High Inc Ac boS.40 700.40 - 4.60	Property 218.00 229.40 + 0.10 Fixed Interest 425.80 448.20 + 0.60 Indexed Gilk 247.70 266.70 - 0.90	Japan 291.10 251.80 - 4.50 Surppeas 297.90 313.70 Pacific 377.10 397.10 - 1.50 Technology 455.70 479.70 - 8.50	Par Bast Fund 253.70 269.20 + 0.30	Life inti Acc 332.00 559.90 Life High Inc Acc 889.70 915.40 Life Presents Acc 889.70 915.40
With Profit Per? 179.30 189.70 + 0.10	Adversisions (3) 1 104.40 0.60	Deposit 24.98 26.29 - 0.02	2nd High Inc Ac 665.40 700.40 - 4.60	Deposit 25:40 238.30 + 0.20	Frgn Bd/Crrty 253.70 267.10 - 0.40	10501 BC 1 #103,40 + 1.70 Worldwide Bond 176,30 185,60 + 0,40	Crown Brit Iny A 1416.00 Brewin Equity 791.30 833 10
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Pre-authorisation not acceptable

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From Mr D. Brookes Sir. I was pleased to read the article by Marianne Curphey on January 6, regarding William Vidal's experience of preauthorisation of credit cards. I can now appreciate that I am not alone in refusing to allow pre-authorisation on my card.

i use hotels on average 30 nights per year and over the past 18 months the practice of asking for pre-authorisation has become increasingly common, and in some cases increasingly aggressive. Even a hotel that I have used more than 100 times in the past three years recently asked me

for a pre-authorisation. In refusing to allow clerks to take a blank of your card, you are treated like a pariah. You are firmly told this is common practice" or "company policy". The implication is always that it is you who are untrustworthy and if you point out that it is not your company policy to allow anyone to have free access to your



WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

credit card, it is made clear that the hotel policy is more important than yours.

Over the past 12 months in particular, I have felt increasingly isolated at hotel reception desks when checking in. 1 have been subjected to crossexaminations by reception staff, been made to wait for the manager and watched other customers dealt with ahead of

me while I was waiting. On one occasion last year I adopted Mr Vidal's approach and agreed to pay for the room in advance, but the manager then pointedly told the receptionist that I could have no further credit at the hotel during my stay. I took all my meals, including breakfast, elsewhere in the town and

used none of the facilities at

the hotel. Credit card companies appear to condone this practice in spite of warning cardholders never to let their card out of sight and to ensure that blank vouchers are destroyed.

In my case, my credit card company (Girobank Visa) supported the hotel, suggesting that a dispute was unlikely and in any event the credit card company "... have cer-tain powers which allow us to resolve any disputes between hotel and cardholder".

Pre-authorisation appears to be becoming a situation in which the individual cannot be right and where the old courtesies extended to the customer are being eroded.

Like Mr Vidal I will continue to object to this practice and perhaps next time I object I will get some support from other customers as they checkin in front of me while I am patiently waiting to see the manager. Yours faithfully

DAVE BROOKES, 31 Andrews Way. Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Red herrings in the water industry debate

From Mr R. Rench Sir, Mr Bill Beckwith (Weekend Money Letters, January 6) contends that without privatisation the water industry was incapable of raising the billions necessary to make good previous under-investment. Not at all: that assertion, as subsequent events have established and confirmed beyond doubt, was a governmentgenerated myth.

Apart from insignificant amounts produced by shareholders opting for shares in lieu of dividends, the whole of the industry's extensive capital programme has been funded by borrowing and by substantial increases in charges on the captive consumers.

Precisely the same course could have been followed had the water survices remained in public hands. And, moreover, it would have been without having to incur the costs of grossly inflated pay and "perks" for executives, dividends for shareholders, a regulatory system and other

As Scotland has clearly demonstrated, it did not re-

quire privatisation to achieve improvements in environmental standards to which Mr Beckwith has referred. The answer lay solely in having the freedom to raise funds in the manner employed for de-cades by public authorities prior to being subjected to the. red herring" constraint of the

PSBR. Yours sincerel ROLAND RENCH. 8 Minshull Place, Park Road Beckenham.

Case for splitting pensions on divorce

From Mrs G. Widdison Sir, I agree with the sentiments expressed in Olga Wikeley's letter (December 30). Thousands of women can expect to receive little or no state pension and can also expect a poor deal if they

The provisions of the Pensions Act. albeit flawed, have done something to remedy this situation. However, the legislation will now come into effect in July 1996, instead of April, as originally proposed. During the intervening

When the bank 'cashes in' over charges

From Mr D. Law Sir, I read your article "Uncle, they shrunk my present" in The Times (December 23). 1 recently wrote a chedue for £420 on my Canadian bank account, which, when cashed by the recipient, netted him £370.11 — £49.89 having been deducted in bank charges by the National Westminster Bank. I have written in vain to the manager and to customer services in Bath and wonder

who else I could write and complain to.

I am told that foreign banks agents' charges totalled £30.29 and the Nat West charges were £19.60. I feel these charges are exorbitant for processing one cheque but nobody else seems to agree. Yours sincerely, DAVID LAW.

month, there will be as many

as 40,000 divorces. The delay will mean that these wives will not be able to take advantage of the concessions in the Act. I am a member of Fairshares, a national group

which is lobbying hard for the splitting of pensions on divorce. We contend that this is a fairer and more rational solution than the division of the husband's pension on retirement, as outlined in the Pensions Act. Postponing the split until retirement is a policy which will create poverty in old age and dependence on the

State for many women. There is still time to resolve this issue by amending the Family Law Bill to give the wife who has devoted herself to home and family a fair share of her husband's pension. I was myself married for close to 37 years, during which time I raised three children and supported my husband's career at the expense of my

GILL WIDDISON, 49 Shrubbery Road. Gravesend, Kent.

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Pep plan to pay off your home loan

THE Halifax, the UK's big-gest building society, has become the first high street ientier to offer routinely a personal equity plan (Pep) as a method of repaying a mort-

The move is an acknowledgement that endowments are no longer acceptable by the public as suitable for repaying mortgages. They have been strongly criticised for carrying too high charges. for failing to produce the returns necessary to pay off the lean and for returning little or no money to investors, il surrendered early. The Halifux denied it was pulling out of seiling endownents altogether Mike Blackburn, chief eventive, said: "While Tax Free Home Plan will be our flugship mortgage repayment plan, we will continue to offer and recommend repayment and endowment-based mortgages where they are more suitable for customers."

The Propert of the loan will ix provided in Halifax Life, a subsidiary of the society. It will be based on one unit trust run by the life company.



which has been going for one year. Anyone who takes out a Pep mortgage of any sort has to take out level term assurance, to ensure their mortgage is paid off if they die. The Halifax is packaging this this life cover together with the Pep. The combined product carries a 7.5 per cent initial charge and a 0.5 per cent annual charge

According to the Halifax, the monthly repayments for a £50,000 mortgage over 25 years would be £364.62. Of this, £284

The Halifax will still offer endowments, says Mike Blackburn

Peps are one of the most taxefficient ways of saving to pay off the loan, but they caution that they are not guaranteed A sudden fall in the stock

short of the sum they need.

loan and £80.62 would be the Pep and life cover contributions combined. A Pep mortgage also gives investors the possibility of benefiting from a tax-free sum after the mortgage has been paid off. Many financial advisers believe that

CAROLINE MERRELL

market could leave borrowers

A guide through the maze

CHASE de Vere, the independent financial adviser, this week published its 14th Pep guide.

The guide contains de-tails of all 1,190 Peps available, including the new corporate bond Peps which were launched in the middle of last year. As well as giving specific details about each Pep on

the market, the 204-page guide also gives a brief history of Peps and lists some tips on achieving maximum returns. Chase de Vere points out about 116 corporate bond

Peps have been launched

this year, many of which

offer rates that are better than building society and bank deposit rates. Chase de Vere also offers six monthly perforcharts accompany the publication. The guide costs £12.95, and the performance charts cost £2.

More information on 0800

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المكذامن النصل

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Rusedski's resurgence to be tested by Becker

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

GREG RUSEDSKI, the British No I, will have his resurgence in form severely tested when he faces Boris Becker, three times the Wimbledon tennis champion, in the first round of the Australian Open next week. The draw was made yesterday, as Rusedski's progress in the Peters International tournament in Sydney was halted when he lost 7-5. 7-6 to Todd Martin, of the United States, in the semi-

Though buoyed by his successes in the warm-up event. which included a victory over Richard Krajicek, of Holland. the No 2 seed, and a 29-minute demolition of Carsten Arriens. of Germany, Rusedksi will need to show the best form of his career to overcome Becker. who will be seeded No 4 at

Martin, who will be seeded No 15 next week, must first face Goran Ivanisevic in the final of the Sydney event. The Croat, who will be seeded No 10 in Melbourne, earned the right to meet him there with a 6-3, 7-6 win over Todd

Woodbridge. Ivanisevic believes he can mount a serious challenge for the Australian title, having acquired the patience and shot-selection that have so often betrayed the advantage gained by his destructive

service. "Before, I did not have much patience and would go for a winner every second shot," he said, "Now I have to think what to do - whether to go for a winner or not. Physically, I'm in very good shape and can stay back and rally with

anyone." Rusedski's fellow Briton, Tim Henman, fared little better in the draw. He is faced with Petr Korda, the unseeded but talented Czech, who is renowned for his heavy hitting

Andre Agassi's preparations for next week's event, the first grand slam tournament of the year, were thrown off course when he was defeated 2-6, 6-2, 7-6 by Yevgerry Kafelnikov in the semi-final of the Colonial Classic in Kooyong. The Russian, who has his own designs on the Australian title, will face Michael Chang, a 6-4, 6-0 winner over Jim Courier, in the final today.

Agassi, who was warned for verbal abuse as he struggled to cope with an onslaught of pace and power from a player who reached the quarterfinals of two grand slam tournaments last year, as well as the semi-final of the French Open, was quick to endorse his opponent's credentials after the match.

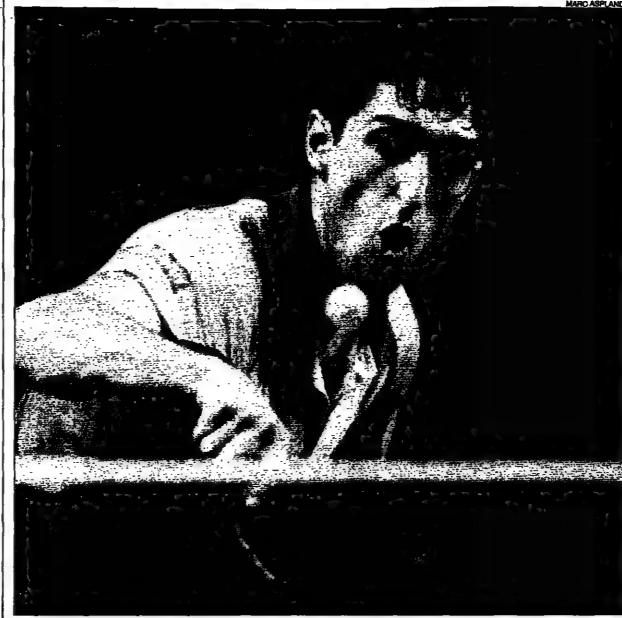
"He's certainly a factor to be dealt with and he's talented enough to take the next step." Agassi said. "He's a threat to anybody on a good day."

Kafelnikov said: "I have a really good draw to the quarter-finals of the Open, and if I have a couple of easy matches. anything can happen."

Clare Wood, the leading British woman player, suc-cessfully negotiated the first round of the qualifying tour-nament for the Australian Open, beating Christine Newman, of the United States, 7-6, 3-6, 6-3. Wood now faces Virag Csurgo, of Hungary, in the next round. She requires two more victories to secure her place in the tournament

proper. proper.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN SEEDS (US universitated) Ment 1, P Serropas; 2, A Agasse, 3, T Muster (Austriag); 4, B Becker (Ger); 5, M Chang; 6, Y Kalenhatov (Fusa); 7, T Encyant (Swe); 8, J Counier; 9, W Fenterra (SA); 10, G Ivaresevuc (Gro); 11, R Krajicak (Fioli); 12, A Becker (Fi); 13, M Possed (Switz), 14, A Merchadov (Ukr); 15, T Martin; 16, P Hearnia, Gholl, Women: 1, M Seker; 2, C Martinez (Sp); 3, A Sánchez Voario (Sp); 4, M Pierce (Fr); 5, K Des (Japan); 6, G Sabetur (Arg), 7, I Majoli (Cro), 8, A Hicher (Gen); 9, M J Fernandez; 0, L Devenoch; 11, B Schultz-McCerthy (Holl): 12, N Zvereve (Belo); 13, C Publin; 14, A Frazier; 15, N Zwarandez (Japan); 16 A Colcar (SA).



Syed's backhand was well to the fore in yesterday's win which took him a step nearer the Atlanta Olympics

Syed deserted by luck of the draw

BY RICHARD EATON

MATTHEW SYED won his group with his fourth well-taken victory before finding himself landed with the toughest second-stage section at the Olympic table tennis qualifying competition in Manchester yesterday. After beating the Polish No 2. Piotor Skierski, 21-19, 21-11, 18-21, 21-9, the England No 1 had hoped for a luckier turn of the wheel than to have been included in the same group as Jorgen Persson, a fomer world champion, and the English Open champion.

The top two will earn places at Atlanta, but unless Syed is at his very best today be may find that he has to go to a third stage, which tomorrow decides two more Olympic qualifiers from the third and fourth-placed players in

each group. Happily, Syed was in good form against Skierski. He snuffed out a first game recovery from 14-19 to 19-20 by the Pole by mixing attack and defence on game point and then by varying chopped and floated defensive strokes through most of the second

At 14-11 to the third game,

Third division

he produced a forehand chop, taken inches from the floor, Andrea Holt, the other England No!, and Alison and coupled it with a running Broe, the former English national champion, both lost matches which left them as backhand smash for a winner which had Skierski throwing qualifiers for the second stage in second places in their his arms wide in despair. Curiously though, the contest tilted the Pole's way for a while after that as Syed, apparently trying to conserve his energies for later battles,

Lisa Lomas, a former European silver medal-winner, had a good win in four games over the former English open champion, Elena Koviun, which won her her group. She then had a tense second stage match against the Yugoslav, Jasna Lupulescu, but won 11-21, 21-19, 22-20, 21-14.

ARORTH MEST COUNTIES LEAGUE Fire division: Burscough v Pennith; Chaddenon v Rodsgrove; Essiawood H v Blackpool Rover; Holser OB v Derwer; Maine Rd v Steinmendale; Mossiev v St. Helens; Newsatel T v Bootle; Precot v Saline; Rossendale v Glessop NE.

PROCESSION REGISSION NE PETERSATION BEGINNEY NORTH-EAN LEAGUE: First division: Chester-le-Street v Whitby: Exploition CW v Crock; Penyhli v Shingters, Mutest v West Auckland; ITM Newcastle v Gusborough; Beshern RS v Shidden: Tow Lieu v Stocker; Whiching Committee Co

Cormit
ARTHURAN LEAGUE: Premier Chulon:
Carflusains v Riptonens: Lancing v
Eportens: Methemisine v Cholmelains: Pier
citysion: Braditaldiens v Andinens;
Halleybungss v Wykehanists; Salopeas v
Wassins: Wedningsuners v Habertechens.

Super Bowl beckons as Packers aim high

By OLIVER HOLT

GREEN Bay legend says that any child lucky enough to touch a Packer player goes straight to heaven. Last Monday, the residents of the bluecollar Wisconsin city left their porch lights on to guide the plane bringing their team home from victory over the San Francisco 49ers, lending another mystical element to

their success story this season. Led by their highly-rated quarterback, Brett Favre, the Packers will take on America's Team, the Dallas Cowboys, in Texas Stadium tomorrow for the privilege of meeting either Indianapolis Colts or Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl XXX in Phoenix, Arizona, in a fortnight. They have lost five times in a row to the Cowboys, but the country is willing the Packers to be swept to victory

on a wave of nostalgia.
The Cowboys, with their formidable running back. Emmitt Smith, metronomic quarterback, Troy Aikman. and flamboyant maverick, "Neon" Deion Sanders, are the slight favourites, but then the Packers were not expected to beat the 49ers either.

"It was important for us to make a statement that we are one of the elite teams in football," Favre, who has thrown 164 consecutive passes without interception, said after the 27-17 victory. "We beat the best team in the sport and we beat them pretty good, but we still have a way to go." This year's surprise con-

tenders, the Colts, play the Steelers in Pittsburgh. Their hosts were hot favourites to make it to the Super Bowl last year, but, amid the premature making of rap videos, the choreographing of end-zone dances and predictions of an easy win in the championship game, they forgot they had to beat the San Diego Chargers

first and duly lost.
There will be no rap or nothing this time," John L. Williams, the full back, said. We are going to have a very professional work ethic and attitude. There is a definite sense of urgency among the older guys here. We may not have any more chances."

SPORT IN BRIEF Jackman

cruises to last eight

THERE was a dash of glam our when the second round of the QM national squash championships started at Edgbaston Priory, in Bir-mingham, yesterday (Colin McQuillan writes). Cassandra Jackman, of Norfolk, the No I seed, swept through to a quarter-final today in which she will meet Linda Charman. of Sussex, the surprise finalist

last year. Jackman took just half an hour to dispose of Sally Felton, of Northamptonshire. 94, 91, 94, and Charman reduced that by half to remove Kelly Buckley, of Essex. for a single point.

Botha fails test

Boxing: Axel Schulz, of Germany, may be given another chance to win the International Boxing Federation (IBF) heavyweight title after confirmation, yesterday. that Francois Botha, of South Africa, has tested positive for a banned anabolic steroid, nandrolone. Botha beat Schulz for the vacant title on December 9 in Stuttgart, but the A sample of his urine. taken after the bout, failed the drugs test. Representatives of the IBF will be present when the B sample is tested. If that also proves positive, Botha will be stripped of the crown and Schulz, 27, will be asked to meet a different opponent for the title.

Birdies in Sky

Golf: The Royal and Ancient confirmed yesterday that BSkyB was among the companies interested in the future televising of the Open Championship when the existing contract, between the Royal and Ancient and BBC Television, expires later this

'Friendly' foe

Cycling: Barrie Clarke de-fends his British open cyclocross title tomorrow against 99 challengers on a course at Sutton Park, Birmingham, that he describes as "friendly' after victory there last year.

POOTBALL Rich all 3 0 rathers street FA Carling Premierable | Botton v Wintbledon | | Everton v Chelsse | | Leverton v Chelsse | | Leverton v Chelsse | | Leverton v West Harn | | Marchester Utd v Astori Vila | | Middlestrough v Amenal | | Notte Forest v Southampton | | CODG v Electricker A Phs 18 48 27 41 20 38 22 38 15 85

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE Premier division: Afrentions v Rushden and Dismonds: Sunon v Baklock Cambridge City v Halosowen. Chelmistord, v Stattord, Groucouter v Meethyr, Gramsend and Northfloot v Chellenham, Hastings v VS Rugby, Newport AFC v Crawley, Saksbury v Gresley; Sudbury Tn v Dorchester Worcestor v Bucton Mittlend Civision: Bedworth v Grantham, Rectaront v Restricts 1

EXCELLENT

CONDITIONS

NORWAY

Plenty of snow has

now arrived in

Hemsedal

Lillehammer &

Gudbrandsdalen

0171 321 0666

· 66

Endeleigh Insurance League First division

AUSTRIA

Kitzbühei

Mayrhoten

St Anton

FRANCE

Les Arcs

Chamonix

Megeve

Tignes

Arosa.

Val d'isère

SWIZERLAND

Alpe d'Huez

Son

Second division (16) Bradford v Brighton ... (17) Bristol City v Crewe ... (18) Burnley v Stockport ... (19) Carlisle v Chasterileid (20) Mall v Britherham (17) Ensor Cay v Crewe
(18) Burnley v Stockport
(19) Carliste v Chesterfield
(20) Hull v Rotherham
(21) Oxford Utd v Brentford
(22) Peterborough v Bournemouth
(23) Swersale v Bristol Rovers
(24) Waisell v Strewsbury
(25) Wresham v Blackpool
(26) Wycombe v Notta County
(27) York v Swindon

P W D L F A

division: Carrioridge U v Assensi; Leyton Cherat v [powidt, Markett v Southend, Portsmouth v Gilreyform; Queens Perk Rangers v Futhern, Totterfram Hotspur v Charlor, Wattood v Chelson; West Hern v Norwood.

Pai HARP LAGER CLP: Red must Cook Rumbles v Sigo (7.45); Firm Harps v Longland (7.20). SNOW REPORTS (5pm) Line (5pm) Conditions Runs to Piste Otl/p resort

15 70 fair crust closed fine 3 8/1
(High runs good, lower sixshy with many bare patches)
0 35 fair varied closed wind 4 6/1
(Pistes showing signs of wear)
15 150 fair heavy worm cloud 2 8/1
(Conditions deteriorating: lower south slopes patchy)
10 50 well poor closed fair 2 8/1

(Good skiing with some treeh snow; lawest runs heavy)
45 200 tair heavy worn cloud 6 7/1
(Still plenty of good skiing above 2,000 metres)
105 130 good varied good cloud 1 7/1
(Good skiing in and around Avoriez; poor visibility)
15 185 good crust slush cloud 1 6/1
(High pistes good; no queues and town empty)
12 85 tair heavy slush tair 7 7/1

(Stringman wealth and stage community
80 130 good veried good enow 2 12/1
(Excellent skiing on fresh snow; 39 of 51 litts open)
80 150 good heavy tair wind 3 12/1
(Tricky conditions but still generally good snow)

(Very mixed conditions; windblown snow)
15 110 fair varied art cloud -2 11/1
(Conditions heavy but some good snow to be found)

12 85 fair heavy stush to (Spring-like weather and skiing conditions)

Trind division
(28) Chester v Bury
(29) Colchester v Barnet
(30) Doncaster v Torquey
(31) Ewster v Heritepool
(32) Fufaren v Scarborough
(33) Gillingham v Lincoln
(34) Hereland v Cambridge Utal
(35) Leyton Orient v Marsfald
(36) Northampton v Cardiff
(37) Preston v Pymouth
(38) Rochdele v Derington
(39) Scunthorpe v Wigdin
(39) Scunthorpe v Wigdin

Visconnell Confirmance

(43) Heingless v Ainteil
First Chylsion
(44) Durnbeston v Aledrie
(45) Durnbeston v Aledrie
(46) Durnbeston v Chylsionnik
(47) Greenock Morton v Durnbes
(48) Hamilton v St. Johnstone Second division

(40) Benkrick v Forter P (50) Clyde v Stanhousemuir (51) East Fife v Queen of South P (52) Montrose v Agr

Terments Scottlet Cup
Second round replays

Amen Ath v Bervick [1.30)

East File v Spertens

Haserburgh v Writehill W

Keth v Deveronvale (—) Ketti v Deveronvale

ESSEX SENOR LEAGUE: Premier devision: Bowers v Savbradgevent; Burtham
Remblere v Gt Walesting: Huttandge Sp v
Bramwood: Florifund v Concord: Southern
Mer v Begleton U: Septement v Mindlere
LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier
dividere: Americane v Lunal Park: Brook
House v Cockhosters; Humwell v
Brinschent; St Margaretsbury v Begoonsfield Sycolt; Wetthern Abbory v Croydor;
Wileader (Hawkaye) v Berkingstate, Wootwich v Totorham Omada. League Cup:
Third round, that leg: Connthern-Cessale v
Hillingdon Boro.

DIFEAT MILL'S LEAGUE: Premier divident.

AFFAN MILLS LEASURE Premier disleter.
Backwell v Barnstaple: Chippenhem v Brisingstor From v Creditor. Odd Down v Elmore; Tiveton v Belgort; Westbury v Bristol Makor Ferrs. Bristol Mulvor Farm.
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES
LEAGUE Premier divisione Clacton v
Feltestowe: Comand v Hedelight Falsashem
v Newmarket: Ot Yearsouth v Sobarn;
Halstend v Wiscock; Slowmerket v Merch;
Tiptree v Woodbridge, Walton v Herwich
and Parlieston; Woolham v Sudhury Res. and Parineston: Wromarm v Stuttury ros-lametrix SOUTH MIDLANDS LEASTE Promier division: Brache Sperte v Tockington: London Colney v Shiffington; Letchworth v Hatlield: Milton Keynes v Lenckock Horaton v Happender; Densigois

COMPREMENSATION FOR THE TOTAL PROPERTY. COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premiler divisions Ashtord v Cranialgh; Blon
Wick v DCA Basingstotes, Famham v
Chschined, Feitham v Ash; Hartby Whitney
v Nechanie, Mensham v Cobhent; Reading
v Raymer Pauk Valle; Vilding Sports v
Godalwing and Galdistor; Washeld v
Sandhurst League Cup: Third round:
Watern Crausels v Badfont.
JENSON WESSEN LEAGUE: Failt GVisions Aerosticases v Establight, Andover
v Paussifict Bournamouth v Brodenhurst;
Downton v Totacs; East Covite v Bosport;
Potramouth v BAT; Santage and Fastich
Covies Sp; Thetchem v Byde Sp;
Whitchsch v Christohusch; Windome v
Bernerton Heath.

lost concentration. Another

speciacular low chop and

running smash combination got the Englishman firing

again at 8-7 in the fourth

game, however, and from

then on his defence strangled

all of Skierski's attacking

Bernerton Heath.

LIMAIST SUSSEX COUNTY LEASUE: Fine
division: Crowboough v Portfald; Enthbound Town v Ringmer, Hallatem v

divident Crowborough v Portfield: Embournet Town v Ringmer, Hallatem v Arundet Hollmain YhliCav Shomhart, him Oak v Three Bridges; Calevood v Sarrico, Pegnam v Langung Sp; Southwick v Writehawk.

WhistChallad KENT LEAGUE: Fresh division: Contribin v Contenbury; Cockerhilla Vythin; Faverien v Steropy; Follestone Invide v Crity; Ramagnia v Bischenhart; Slade Graen v Orall HELLENG. LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon United v Tuffey; Burnham v Shoriyeod; Crampaster v Kristovy; Dicolav Fastrock Endsteigh v Backley, Highworth v Amondatury; Swindon Supermeitte v Lambourn Sports.

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Expressury v Bournet; Newport Pagnal v Storoty; Desborough v Minister Blackstone; Eynesbury v Bourne; Newport Pagnal v Cogenios, Wallagbacough v Specific, Woodon v Si Noots.

INTERLINE COPRESS MILLIAMO ALLI-ANCE: Boldstal v Solvenor, Wallingbacough v Sarpenhet v Dideour, Pountier V Sarphwell; Preminer v Ordour; Proceetier v Sarphwell; Preminer v Holleschell; Streetierd v Sarphwell; Preminer v Histories Coverning. EMDILLENH MIDILAND COMMINATION:
Premier division: Alvechunch Ville. v
Northistick Anserts v Highgate; Coversity
Sphints v Wellesbouwste, Handminer Timbors v Chebrinsky, Knowle v Coleanit, MarKA v Kings Health; Southern v Blosetich;
Upton v Massey Ferguson.
BANKETS RESIMETY LEAGUE: Premier
divinion: Gormal v Hill Top; Lichfeld v
Derlastion: Paleoti v Mehvert; Stourport v
Briefley Hill: Trivolate v Wechnesheld; Waleati
Wood v Chadley; Woheshempton C v
Lactice.

Luction.

MORTH-BM COUNTIES EAST LEAGUEPremier division: Armshorpe Well v Osself.

Abbon; Conselv Pickering; Glassinoughton
Well v Ashferd; Hucknell v Hambel Main:
Liversedge v Goole, Meltby MW v Arnold;
Osself T v Stocksbridge PS; Trackley v
Shaffield.

chiellon: Enantelicians v Aromens; challeyburgars v Webschambars v Webschambars (Sabopans v Webschambars) (Sabopans v Webschambars (Sabopans v Webschambars) (Sabopans v Webschambars) (Sabopans v Cardinal Manning; O Meladoriens v O Hamptonians; O Tantonians v Gaylin. Benior fast division: O Salvatonians v O Wilsonians; O Suttonians v O Kingsburners: Street v Proorite. Southfellen Amarteur League Fast division: O Est-demeiant v Cad Service. Norsement v National Benis v G. Berner v Medicans v East Barnet OS. Becond division: Alexandria Park v O Latymerisms: Lloydo: Norsement v National Benis v O Parmitesians; O Stationers v Lersbury; O Parkonians v Melanian division: Alleyn OS v Pormitesians; O Stationers v Lersbury; O Parkonians v Melanian Benis Polytochnic v O Brombatens; Third division: Alleyn OS v Brombates; Third division: Alleyn OS v Brombates; Third division: Alleyn OS v Brombates; Division one; Notaborough v Weben; O Owner v Alberiers; Parkited v O Grammartens: Section two: City of London v O Frinchtelens; O Woodhouselans v Corinthan Dor, O Besionlens v Langue Lander 19 Trophy; Christian Gayling of the Corinthan of the Corinthan Corinter Langue Lander 19 Trophy; Christian Casulla School of Holy Plan Trophy; Christian Caput Linder 19 Trophy; Christian V London Sun Shield: Sudhery Hortonians (10 45), Valadington v Harvering, London Sun Shield: Cuther Langue Caput Linder 19 Trophy; Christian V London Northern Caput Langue Linder 19 Trophy; Christian V London Northern Caput

FOOTBALL. Notice 10 urings speed

FA Curling Premierable Covenity v Newcastle (4.0) . Birmingham v Charton (2.55) Sunderland v Norwich Bell's Scottish League Abordeen v Celtic

Aberdeen v Cellic
FN HARP LAGER CUP: First vound:
Annotale United v CYM Terenus (2 15); Bray
v Ferned (2 15); Dany v St. James' Gele
(3.15); Sharmook v Shelbourse (2 15); TSK
United v Cork (2 15); Fernjale United v Home
Farm (2 15); UCC v Limenok (2.0); UCD v
Kolkenny (3 16); Wayelde Cellic v Chory
Orchard (2 15).
FA WOMEN'S PREMIER! LEAGUE: Nedomal
Laegues Reason v Wolverhampton.
FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE CUP: Fourth
round; Transiere v Croydon; Leyton Crient v
Domoscor Bellow, Three Bridge v America;
Uverpod v Wentany,
FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division's
Bronie v Lampford, Notic County v Garawood
St Hallens, Southempton Saints v Codord Uct;
Town and County v Wimbledon; Brentford v
Brighton and Hoos.

RUGBY LEAGUE Kingle of S.O union project Stones Chempionetrip Haiilax v Warrington Wortington v Oldhem ... Fast division Dewsbury v Whitehaven Hull v Widnes (3.15)

Keightey v Batley (3.15)_

Silk Cut Chellenge Cup Third mund Third cound

Barrow v Doncaster (2.30)...

Brantley v Heworth

Cartisla v West Bowling (2.0)...

Chorisey v Thatto Heatin

Hull KR v Eastmoor (2.30)...

Hull KR v Eastmoor (2.30)...

Lugh v Egremont

Swinton v Thornhill

York v Lock Lane (3.15)...

HOCKEY HOCKEY

Britain v Mistayeta (Bishorn, 2.0).

HA INDOOR, CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Pratiminary round: Pool A [Perdisvelli): Socupori v Barlord, Hull v Sourpori, Cornosta v Bonossiar, Hull v Sourpori, Concesta v Barlord, Frebrands v Carnock, Pool B (East Grinstaad): WLIFE v Redbridge and Brord, Lecontrates v East Grinstad; of Loughtoriens v St. Albans, Laominster v WLIFE St Albans v Redbridge and Brord, Claft Loughtoriens v Stee Grinstand: WOMEN'S CLUB MATCHES: Bedens v Hoyel High Gymrasta: Crimson R v Sterwood, Leontraster v Porsanth (12.0); Peterborought v Straffeld (1.0)

OTHER SPORT BASIGETBALL: Budweiser League: Don-castur v Manchester (5.30); Newcastin v Hernal (6.0); Shaffield v Blimmigham (6.15) CYCLINS: National orientingmain (8.15)
CYCLINS: National cyclo-cross charapten-ships (Sution Coloffeld, 10.30)
TABLE TENINS: Olympic qualitying four-rement (Nynex Arenz, Manchester),
SCILASH: Cilil National Championahips (Edgbeston Priory Club, Bieningham)

RUGBY UNION Kick-off 2:30 unless stated Regal Trophy Counge Clubs Chempionship First division Onell v Saracens (2:15)

Pifits division south

Mensield; Wolverhampton v Syston.
LONDON: Basingstoke v Sutton and Epsom; Einhet v Southend; Quidlond and Godalming v Eating; Harlow v Charlion Parts Old Collectens v Suchbury; Old Mid-Whitightias v Sealines.
SOUTH WEST: Bridgerias v Bernsteple; Brisham v Newbury; Cindefford v St Ivas; Gloucastes OB v Wasdenhaed; Sharborné v Torquey; Tauriton v Saliabany.

First division Plate tavesor Publishery Neath v Newport Portfypridd v Bridgend Swensea v Newfortge Treorthy v Cardiff Swensea P. Portfypridd process P. Portfypridd P. Port

Abstroyon v Casrphily
Bonymaen v Llandovery
Cross Keys v South Weles Police
Llanharen v Temby Utd
Portypod v Dunvant
Ystredgynleis v Maesteg
Ciub meliches

Club mittohes

Inistol v Gloucestar (3 0)

Cheltenham v Matson

Hartequine v Loughborough Univ (3 0)

Lacester v Glasgow District (3,0)

Lignelli v Aberavon

Moseley v West Hartlepool (3,0)

Northampton v Beth (3 0) OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: 7-Up Trophy Finet: London v Worthing (at NEC. Birmingham, 7.15). Budwelse: League: Derby v Leicester (8.0) sings (West of Scotland Indoor Stackuri).

BOXING: European super-middlewelight championship. Henry Wharton (York, holder) v Virioerso Nerdeelo (Fr) (North-Bridge, lethere Centre, Helder) Brighs light-middlewelight championship (wasand). Ensembly Bingham (Manchester) v Gibert Lackson (Battersea) (Bowler's, Manchester) CYCLING: Five Cases Super Track League (Manchester, 7.0).

LACROSSE: Shepherds Friendly Society Lague: Pramier division: Shelfield Steef-ers v Cheedle: Hulmelans v Boardman and Eccles; Old Wacorlans v Heaton Mersey; Mellor v Stockport; Timpertay v Cheedle Hulme. TABLE TENNES: Olympic qualitying loui-nament (Nynex Arena, Manchaster)

VOILEYGALL: English Association Cup: Quarter-linels: Leeds v Mizumo Malony Lewisherr, Newcastle Stalls v Sportset Whitefield; Chester v Putbrook; Tooling Aquila v Polone Esting, National League: Women: The diverser, IV. En League v Man Utd Gallord

RUGBY LEAGUE

personal form of these

St Helens v Wiger: (at Hudderskeld, 3 0)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE Pro-mier division: Mayfeld v Millom (2 0; Saddiaworth v Hernot Hempstead (2 30), Woolston v Dudley Hd (2 30).

HOCKEY

MEN'S INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Great Briain v Malavina (Bicham, 2.0)

and literd v East Genstead, Lagmister v Old Loughtontams.

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premer division: Achierd v Lions; Beckenhern v Woking, Bournamouth v Wintaledon; Fareham v Newbury, Gone Court v Spencer; Madderhead v Chichester; Old Kingstonians v Anchoriere; Old Walcounteno v Leves, Oxford Hewks v Wokingham, Windrester v High Wyourribs. Hamposhine/ Burney; Basingstoke v Anchover; Blandord v Southampotor, Cheem v Epozon, Dutwich v Barnes, London University v Purley; Old Cranleighers v Oxfott: Old Edwerdians v Prints; Old Whitofittens v Camberley, Oxfot V Walton and Weytholog; Peterstriad v Old Mits-Whitofittens, Kenten V Bedevlerie v Worthres; Horse Hill: Beddy Invota v Boddynath, Blackhoam v Bigitters, Charley v Worthres; Horne Bay v Turbordge Wels; Horstham v Old Williamsonians; Marden Russels v Savencale; Middleton v Old Beccehanians; Old Bordenians v Mid Susses; Old Holcombesins v Bognor Middlet/Barha/Buche and Oxon; Americans v Mid Susses; Old Holcombesins v Bognor Middlet/Barha/Buche and Oxon; Americans v Mid Susses; Old Holcombesins v Holl v Hayes; PriC Chisweck v Mill Hill; Hampashia v Hill Chicago Park v Hendon, Stames v City Ol Cohord, Sanbury v Hendon And LeAgue.

1.

Oxford, Sunbury v Harrow
574ST AND VOUNG MICHAND LEAGUE
Premier division: Browich v John Player,
Khalsa v Harrotome, Loughborough Students v Harrotome, Loughborough Students v Harrotome, Loughborough Students v Harrotome, Loughborough
CALIB MATCHES: Brooklands v Warnington; Harrotom N v Palcens (12.45); Ipoworo
v Blueherts (12.0), Isoa v Taunton ValeOxford Univ v Durham Univ (Ving Edward
Sch., 11.30), Welwyn GC v Peterborough;
West Gloucestershire v Robinsons. West Gloucestersine v Hobinsons.

WOMEN'S CLUB MATCHES: Blackburn v
Ormstart, Bealeytheath v Handon, Bournemouth v Exmouth; Cartoff Ath v Cithors,
Chalmsford v Harleston M (115), Cohynn
Bey v Neston (12), Dutwich v Wimbledon Chairmistoria V Pransistorii M (115), Collwyn Bay v Neston (12), Duhlich v Winbledon (4 30), Ealing v Laocaster: Llanishen v St Fagaras, Olfon v Redland, Poyrtan v Pay-nours, Reading v Old Loughtonians (12 15); Sheffield v Crimson R, West Withey v Lansdown (10.30); Woking v Worthing (3.0)

IIII. Jan TIMES SNOWLINE 0891 333 568 24hr stong information direct from resorts in: or her a faxed report. Olai the above number from a relephone linked to a fax machine **SWEATHERLINE** 0891 333 462

Clubs threaten to put brakes on forward march

By David Hands, Rugby correspondent

WHATEVER the agenda for the special general meeting of (RFU) tomorrow, there is a grave danger that voting will take place for negative reasons, Ostensibly, England's clubs assemble in Birmingham to receive details of the RFU commission's investigation into open rugby; in practice, the debate now centres around the candidates for chairman of the union's execurive committee.

智 开 双

As such, John Jeavons-Fellows, the official nominee, has come to represent the elite, high-profile end of the game; Cliff Brittle, who has been accused, erroneously, of entering the contest by the back door, is seen as the nominee of the counties, who are mobilising large numbers of proxy votes on his behalf.

It is far too easy to label the meeting as the progressives against the reactionaries, to pigeonhole the two contenders as present v past. What the neering does represent is a groundswell of opinion that

WHILE the England squad

prepares at Bisham Abbey for

the five nations' meeting with

France next weekend, the

rump of the first division in

the Courage Clubs Champ-

ionship - in this instance,

Orrell and Saracens - play

the match postponed by bad

The bulk of the second

division do the same, which

brings the two exile clubs

together at Sunbury, where

victory would give London

trish second place — on points

difference - ahead of London

Scottish, Moreover, they have

Conor O'Shea, the interna-

tional full back, available to

peets are good for Orrell if

their proposed ground-shar-

present fortunes are distinctly

mixed. Mauled by Sale last

week, they are now without

Paul Johnson, their captain,

who has a broken thumb and

has been replaced by Lua

Since James Naylor, the wing, and Phil Winstanley and Iason Cundick, the props.

are also injured, they will do well to stave off a league

double. Saracens won the

game in September, if only by

the odd penalty kick, and

l'uigamala in the centre.

heme with Wigan to fruition, their

assist their cause.

weather on December 30.

opposes the precipitate professionalisation of the game the Rugby Football Union and the concentration of resources upon the leading players and first division clubs.

Too many clubs have found that the bluff Jeavons-Fellows. 56, tells them too many home truths in too high-handed a fashion; have been angered at the apparent lack of interest in the 95 per cent who play and administer the game in England. They do not want the game that they have cherished to slip into professional

All these are negatives that do not reflect the qualities that will be needed to chair the RFU's executive - or board of management as it will come to be known. Those who have sat alongside Jeavons-Fellows in international debates testify to the power with which he fights England's corner, even if his lack of diplomacy is sometimes a stumbling block.

Curiously, he and Brittle come from similar backgrounds. Both are successful

feature in their back row Alun

Phillips, whose playing career took him to Canada before his

It remains to be seen wheth-

er Wigan will appear at the

Middlesex sevens at Twicken-

ham at the end of this season

but the Rugby Football

League accepted an invitation

yesterday to enter the

The league has also accept-

ed that it is a charity event and

is expected to announce on

Monday the club who will

represent it the sevens

organisers hope that it will be

Wigan so that Martin Offiah

- once of Rosslyn Park -

Dublin play Rome. It is likely

that next season two pools of

four teams each, will contest a

televised

return this season.

tournament.

Bridgend.

sponsored.

Prospects bleak for

depleted Orrell

By DAVID HANDS

out and have the time to concentrate upon rugby administration. Jeavons-Fellows knows well the junior-club background from his days with Stourbridge and North Midlands, even while he has been flying high on the RFU executive and International Rugby Pootball Board (IRFB).

Brittle, 54, played for Stoke and Sale and emerged from Staffordshire to chair the RFU coaching working party and sit on the Bishop Commission, which restructured the union last year. He may well have the qualities to be a successful chairman, and has been sponsored by Ian Beer and Sir Peter Yarranton, both former RFU presidents, but too many

insiders simply do not know. The first division clubs have no great preference, though one of their number described the contest as one between the devil we know and the devil we don't". Whatever the outcome, the prospects of these clubs seeking a premiership-style organisation of their own remains strong.

The RFU is right to be worried that its nominee could fail. It has not handled the preliminaries to the meeting well. It hoped initially for an unopposed election when it might have anticipated a counterclaim from the counties; it suggested to Brittle that he might stand down which, tactically, was unwise. The extent of its anxiety is reflected in an appeal to Dudley Wood, the recently-retired secretary. to give his imprimatur to Jeavons-Fellows on the basis that Wood would be listened to by the game's rank and file.

If Brittle wins, he seeks consultation with every sector of rugby in England, which only extends the time available for the game elsewhere to go haring off beyond reach. The game in the northern hemisphere desperately needs a strong England, on and off the field, capable of controlling the future rather than marching to the beat of the southern-hemisphere drum.

may grace the event once What it does not need is the A Heineken League prochanged. If people wish to gramme, restricted by the remain amateur, that is entireinternational match between ly up to them." Bill Bishop, the Wales and Italy next Tuesday. RFU president, said, "but the gives Pontypridd the chance fact is that the IRFB abolished of top place if they take the amateur regulations. If the maximum points from Rugby Union do not accept that simple truth, we will be in The prototype of a Euroa terrible legal mess." pean tournament for universities takes place in Paris today when Cambridge play PUC, the host club, at Charlety Stadium and Trinity College,

☐ Edward Jones, secretary of the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU), yesterday tendered his resignation. Jones, who was given the five-year appoint-ment in October 1993, will step down on June 30. He said that the recent changes in the game had swayed his decision.



Haughton, only 20, could claim his third winner's medal with Wigan in the Regal Trophy final today

Versatility is Haughton's virtue

Size 13 feet were not the only outstanding fea-ture of Simon Haughton at the age of 14. That same year he scored 130 tries in the Bingley amateur rugby league under-14 side. an entry for the most tries in a season that still sits proudly amid the longest, tallest and shortest in the Guinness Book of Records.

Moreover, the prodigious young record-breaker touched down all 130 as a prop forward, the shire horse to the show ponies normally. Haughton is now 20 and in the past year his meteoric rise at Wigan has seen him take the international stage and the seventh successive Stones Championship title to land at Central Park has already guaranteed him a second winner's medal. Today's encounter with St Helens in the Regal Trophy final bru prospect of a third.

His latest role finds him at loose forward, but Haughton has always been something of a chameleon in terms of position. In his youth, whether at No 8 or in the threequarters at union or league (his natural preference), the cocksure teenager was pretty much untouchable with the ball in his sizeable hands. "I put some of it down to ability but a lot to my size. As a kid, I was nearly a six-footer," he said. "It was a case of swatting the other kids out of the way. I usually scored Christopher Irvine charts the meteoric rise of one of Wigan's brightest young stars

seven or eight times a match at Bingley. Once, I remember, on a league career, he knew it was his last chance for repre-

it was nine." It was while playing centre for Yorkshire Schools at rugby union that he first came under the ubiquitous eye of Eric Hawley, Wigan's scout and unearther of talent in Yorkshire from Ellery Hanley to Jason Robinson. His knock on the Haughton household

door was one of several. Haughton chose to play three times on the wing for England Schools at rugby union in 1992, rather than represent England Schools at rugby league. Having decided

6ft 2in and who mushroomed from 14 to 16 stones under Wigan's weights regimen, got

sentative honours at union.

Leeds and Bradford were

never in the running. "I'd

been a fan of Leeds all my life,

but when the top club comes

along, money and such things

don't enter the equation," he

said. "If Wigan wanted me, I

knew I'd be joining the best.

I'd play anywhere, but they

had earmarked me for the

From signing on his seven-

teenth birthday. Haughton.

second row."

Premiership final. St Helens are cast as the underdogs Wigan, seven times winners of the competition, have Neil Cowie back after suspension

to play in the Academy side. It was not long before Graeme West then reserve-team coach, gave him his chance, and then came a try-scoring debut a year after his arrival at Central Park, in a defeat of Whitehaven in the Regal Trophy. "I'd been on ten minutes when a chance presented itself and I took it." Haughton said.

He was called into the

England squad for last sea-

son's European championship after only three full firstteam appearances in which Wigan had apparently discovered the natural forward successor to the Auckland-bound Denis Betts. When Haughton came on to partner Betts, in his farewell to Wigan, the youngster announced his takeover with a thunderous charge and score in the Premicrship final defeat of Leeds last May, Last October, Phil Larder, the England coach, two contemporaries from the Great Britain Academy side. Kris Radlinski and Paul Cook, into the World Cup party. "One of the reasons is that at Wigan, if you are good enough, age doesn't come into it." Haughton said.

new back row Haughton. Scott Quinnell and Mick Cassidy off the Wigan production line has been unstoppable. The trio's momentum swept aside Leeds in the Regal Trophy semifinal. A similar fate possibly

England masters reduced to role of pupils

> FROM MEL WEBR INTHARJAH

THERE were two teams on the field, but only one in the match. West Indies comprehensively demolished their hapless English opponents in the final of the World Masters Cricket series here yesterday. The margin of victory was eight wickets with 17 balls of the 40 overs left, but if West Indies had extended themselves they could have completed the job a good deal

England batted fecklessly and sometimes recklessly and their bowling lacked any sort of sting. In short, they took a

tanning.
Batting first, England got off to a poor start and never recovered against a West Indies attack that hardly missed Malcolm Marshall, who had had to return to South Africa. where he plays for Natal.

England lost Gooch early on, and his dismissal was the

Pakistan yesterday recalled Javed Miandad after more than two years' absence. He is in their 14-man squad for the World Cup, which will be captained by Wasim Akram. Miandad has played in 228 one-day internationals since his debut 20 years ago. Squad, page 47

start of a procession. Their one hope was Barnett, but he was needlessly run out, while Vivian Richards held two magnificent catches to dispose of Terry and Gould.

The way Haynes and Gordon Greenidge batted, it would not have mattered a great deal had West Indies needed another 50. Both men sparkled in a 137-run opening stand that took their side to the brink of victory. West Indies' prize was \$50,000; their cricket was beyond price.

E. I. Bistani, du del met a y E decembre à

WEST INDIES G Greenage by 5 Garing 11 marks 5 Garing 5 Chics

50% UNIS Radioto 6-0-25-0 Harrier 7-0-36-0 Empurer 6-1-23-0 Paper 4-0-21-0. Criida 7-1-3-34-1 Garting 7-0-25-1

Wigan call up Cowie

ST HELENS are likely to confirm their strongest side shortly before the kick-off of the Regal Trophy final against Wigan at the McAlpine Stadium, Huddersfield, today (Christopher Irvine writes). Paul Newlove, the recent world-record signing, Anthony Sullivan, the club's leading try scorer with 24, and Chris Joynt, the outstanding forward of the season, are avail-

able after injury. Joynt, the Great Britain second-row forward, is the only St Helens player to have experienced victory over Wig-

against their Lancashire rivals in ten meetings since the 1993

> in place of the injured Kelvin Skerrett.

THE MAZDA THAN ILLE AND CONTRACTOR (mazpa) > (the rest)

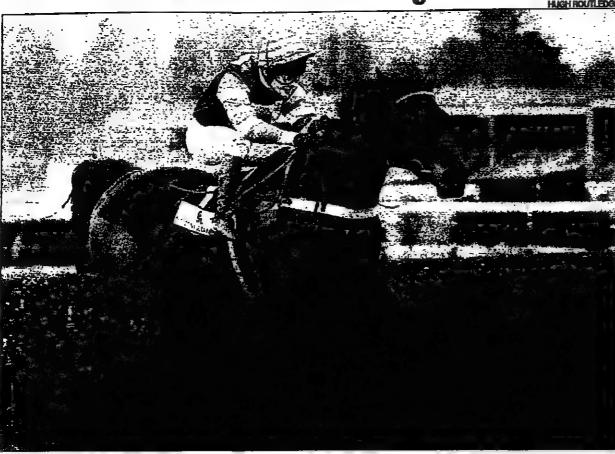
Egypt Mill Prince ready for accession

VICTOR CHANDLER, the prominent rails bookmaker. could not have contrived a more finely balanced contest than the two-mile chase he sponsors at Ascot today. There is enough flavour among the field of 11 to seduce the most hesitant punter.

Chandler will recognise the contest as one in which bets should be laid rather than struck. A quartet of emerging horses - Front Street, Mar-tin's Lamp, Gales Cavalier and Big Matt - confront the proven two-mile specialists Storm Alert, Egypt Mill Prince and Kibreet. The pace will be furious, the margin for error minimal. Given these circumstances, it may be wise to settle on the experience of Egypt Mill Prince.

Victory for the ten-year-old would be well deserved. Jenny Pitman's charge has filled the runner-up berth in the last two renewals of this race. His Cheltenham defeat by Dublin Flyer in November was another near-miss in exalted company. Somewhat harshly, frustrating habit of flattering to deceive. More often than not, however, he has been ambushed by improving horses carrying lesser weights. Big Matt has finished be-

hind Egypt Mill Prince on both their encounters this term and he tries again with a reasonable weight concession. Once again, however, Big Matt races from out of the handicap and his tendency to make one serious mistake will count against him.



Certainly Strong puts in a fluent leap on her way to winning the PML Lightning Novices' Chase at Ascot

Gales Cavalier and Kibreet appear closely matched, although both horses love to attack from the front. With the free-running Martin's Lamp also keen to dictate matters. the likes of Nakir, Storm Alert and Uncle Emie may struggle useful hurdler High Baron

and Dancing Paddy, the latter something of an enigma, will have their suspect jumping tested to the full and a bigger danger looms in the shape of

Front Street has had plenty in reserve in each of his three victories this term, showing a useful change of pace. He fits

the profile of several previous winners in that he remains unexposed. What he must now prove is his ability to cut it with the best. On only his fifth outing over fences, he represents no value for what is by some way his stiffest test. Egypt Mill Prince, for his

tion. His fencing is sound and he is never more comfortable than when stalking a strong pace. The Pitman stable is in good form and Egypt Mill Prince can finally atone for several narrow reversals. David Nicholson received a boost to the chances of Marpart, has long been accus-

tomed to this level of competi-

when saddling Percy Smollett and Certainly Strong to a 22-1 double over fences at Ascot yesterday. Certainly Strong's comfortable victory in the PML Lightning Novices' Chase represented a victory for patience. The mare was named for her wayward tendencies as a youngster and it has taken two years of cajoling to see her settle down.

Certainly Strong runs her rivals ragged from the front, somehow fiddling the fences she meets on the wrong stride. She has a similar appetite for the game to Anaglog's Daugh-ter, so it is appropriate that she bids to emulate the Irish runaway's victory in the 1980 Arkle Trophy Chase at Chel-

After unsaddling Certainly Strong, Nicholson resisted the temptation to talk up Viking Flagship in the wake of that horse's poor showing at "Like last year, I'll let the horse do the talking for himself." Nicholson said of the reigning champion two-mile chaser.

It would not pass the censor's pen to reveal in precise Richard Evans, described the winning prospects of his Northern Saddler in the Bucktail Handicap Chase. Suffice to say that the horse ran unbacked — and promptly obliged under 12 stone for Richard Dunwoody. But punters will have forgiven Evans his rare lapse. His nap, Treasure Again, landed the concluding Rosling King Handicap Hurdle at odds of

1.00 Seasonal Splendour 3.15 HIII Of Tullow 1.35 Seven Of Diamonds 2.10 Egypt Mill Prince

Bullog on which house has word (F — first good to first, hard, G — good, S — soft, good to soft, feathy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and eaght. Ridder plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rading.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES)

.00 VICTOR CHANDLER HOVICES HURDLE

FORM FOCUS

LE IGNUME complaint indice and floor (bit 7) in 10-numer notice harde at Warnick (2m., panel). Therefore the transition of the control of the

1.35 STEEL PLATE AND SECTIONS HANDICAP CHASE (28,325: 2m 3f 110yd) (8 runners)

. 2005: CRYSTOL SPIRIT 8-11-10 J Osborne (4-1) | Bulding 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

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THE FIRST PRINCE and SMM 4h of 10 in Seatt's land in harding class of highest (De.

2.10 VICTOR CHANDLER HANDICAP CHASE (Grade II: \$25,975; 2m) (11 runners)

Long bandlese: Front Street 10-2. Big May 10-1.

NUES: MANTHAL'S SON & 10-8 N Franci (I-1) I Factor 8 co FORM FOCUS

NAVOR 61 2nd of 2 to Wonder Milm in handlood chase at Chehantiam (2m, good to firm) on penuls— male start. STURPA ALERT 141 2nd of 5 to appendix handlood to be course and discuss the control of the course and discuss the control of the course and discuss the course of the course and discuss the course of the course and discuss the course of the course of the course and discuss the course of the course of the course of the course of the course and discuss the course of the c

2.45 DURHAM RANGER NOVICES HURDLE (£3,989; 2m 110yd) (18 runners)

1965: 124578 90M2 6-11-12 J Osborne (100-30) 5 Dow 15 no

3.15 PETER ROSS NOVICES CHASE (£14,175: 3m 110yd) (9 runners)

1992: 8505E PROFE LANCER 7-11-7 J Oabums (7-1) J Silbard & ras

3.45 TEAL AND GREEN HANDICAP HURDLE | 128: 2m 110yd) (15 NUMERS) | Religion | Re

1985: BLAST FREEZE 8-10-8 M Fizzerald (2-1) N Henderson 9 am

COURSE SPECIALISTS 36.7 C Mazie 25.0 J Ostomu 24.5 A P McCoy 23.9 M A Pizzera 21.9 C Lieurstyn

(1.40).
THURSDAY: LingBeld Park (AW. 1.30), Ludion (1.10). Teurson (1.20).
FRIDAY: Southwell (AW. 1.40).
Catterick (1.20), Kempton Park (1.30).
SATURDAY: LingBeld Park (AW. 1.25). Catterick (1.245). Hoydock Park (BSC, 12.30), Kempton Park (C4, 1.10).

ASCOT 101 201 301 WARWICK 102 202 337 N'CASTLE 103 203 313 LINGFIELD 104 204 304 Cal depart of 19 / ma department of 19 mg

Seven Of Diamonds can prove ace for Alner

BBC

1.00: A fascinating contest which pits several of last season's leading bumper horses against some potentially useful recruits from the Flat. Ebullient Equiname made hard work of winning a modest Hereford maiden hurdle on her hurdling bow, but is sure to appreciate today's

extra three furlongs. Wisley Wonder has won his last three starts but may be found wanting for speed here. Most likely to take advantage are Meant To Be and Seasonal Splendour. Both showed smart staying form on the

level, but preference is for Spiendour. She was impressive when accounting for Crane Hill at Newton Abbot and is sure to improve for today's longer trip.

1.35: Seven Of Diamonds was outpaced by the useful Front Street and Gales Cavalier over a shorter trip at Newbury, and can return to winning ways back over his optimum distance. Spuffington put up some creditable bly when winning two novice chases in heavy ground at Chepstow, and would be the chief threat if fully wound up 2.10: See above.



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

Buck was handed last week's Newton Chase at Haydock by the last fence fall of Morceli. but should again go close.

CHANNEL 4

2.00: The front-running Whippers Delight is on an attractive mark, but is likely to find this trip stretching his stamina, a comment which also applies to James The First. in a competitive contest, the best bet may be Philip's Woody, who can gain a deserved success after finishing runner-up to progressive rivals on his last two starts. 2.35: Simple Arithmetic fell at the fifth when strongly fan-

cied at Sandown last week,

but has yet to prove that he

stays this trip. Jibber The

Kibber was another to make

when a warm favourite over course and distance. However, this smart hurdler will take all the beating if putting in a clear round.

3.05: Maamur has been raised just 8lb for his impressive success at Towcester last month and, likely to improve Moorcroft Boy has his first outing since taking a dreadful tumble at Aintree 14 months ago. He is well treated on his best form, but is likely to need the run. The Malakarma will appreciate every yard of this stamina test and looks best of the remainder.

favoured by the conditions when comfortably beating Great Marquess on her Newbury reappearance, but has more to do here back in handicap company. Bell Staffboy failed to stay three miles at Cheltenham last time, weakening after a bad mistake three out. He reains fairly handicapped. but would not appreciate any further rain.

The improving Pharanear makes much more appeal. He made a winning handicap debut at Bangor and should continue his winning run.

ROBERT WRIGHT

WARWICK

2.00 Philip's Woody 12.25 Dark Nightingale 2.35 Jibber The Kibber 3.05 MAAMUR (nap) 12.55 Sparkling Yaamin 1.30 Swivel

GOING, GOOD TO SOFT

12.25 HAMPTON HILL NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,366 2m) (16 numers)

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6/1 Derrymoyle 6/1 Jeffell 8/1 Family Way 10/1 Bank Statement 12/1 Chief's Song 12/1 Destriero

25/1 Crossfarnogue 25/1 Non Vintage 14/1 Gambolling Doc

33/1 Nemuro 33/1 Reasilyia 40/1 Miltonfield 40/1 Nordic Thorn 50/1 Bookcase 16/1 Dance Boot

50/1 Leggagh Lady 50/1 Palacegate King 50/1 Ring The Alarm LATEST COOS Of William Hill TV TEXT
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12.55 LEASOWES MADDEN HURDLE (83,798* 2m 4/ 110yd) (25 runners)

BETTING: 5-1 faul Box. 6-1 Havey Moust, 7-1 Speaking Vision: High Micro, 16-1 Aloue Blue. The Received Box, 12-1 others.

1.30 RED ROSE JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE

72: 2m) (18 runners)

03:310 NLDOAN SAY 12 (V.B.F.D.S.S.) & Harris 18 acres 11-8
210 SHETRIS MODIN 98 (F) (Bits K Rebert-Horizo 3 acres 11-5
1 WATCH MY LIPS 98 (D.G.) (Max. 0 Meson) M Tomplers 11-8
1 WATCH MY LIPS 98 (D.G.) (Max. 0 Meson) M Tomplers 11-8
1 WATCH MY LIPS 98 (D.G.) (Max. 0 Meson) M Tomplers 11-8
1 WATCH MY LIPS 98 (D.G.) (Meson) M Same 11-6
1 PLEPOS 28 (No. 1 Meson) M Same 11-6
1 NEARTHANGS ROOK 7 (V) IL Mergar 9 Hohadsed 11-6
1 HOWN THE RILLES 257 (P Meson) Society 11-6
1 HORI PARRIENCH 10F (P Green) N Meson 11-6
2 PALITISA 93 (Medinsh Room) M Meson 01-1-6
3 PANGER SLOAME 8 (G Fiers) 18 Pero 11-6
3 SELATAN 101 F (Sample Room) D Generaly 11-6
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9 PARTHERIS REST 7 (100 Cocan) S Meson 11-6
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1 (£4.572; 2m) (18 runners)

SETTING 4-1 Severi 6-1 Metangunit, 7-1 Watch My Lips. 8-1 Númber Sev. (2010) - Migh Patentes, 17-1 others 1995: ARIZIM 4-11-8 W Mandon 14-9 No.; D Nechocars 10 nm

2.00 EDWARD COURAGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (£7,263: 2m 4t 110yd) (16 runners)

BETTING: 5-1 James The Figs. 7-1 Philips Modely 8-1 Denier Bay, 15-1 Booth Route. Ac Pollutal. Accepts 12-1 pilots

1995 WATS IN CHRIST TO 114 5 9000 (14) 27 co. 15 co. FORM FOCUS

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2,35 WESTHINSTER TAXI HISURANCE NOVICES CHASE

BTTML 3-1 Single Automatic, 4-1 Alber Ne Albert 1-2 Seat The Risk, 5-1 Ar Seat, 12-1 Second CSI, The Command 16-1 others. 1995: SUNY 64Y 6-11-5 Q Bradley (11-10 tor) C Branto. Hi ran

FALMOUTH SAY best Mr Pictopockel 441 as 12russer covers chase at Careton (2m 31, good) or
perolement start ART SHOT best filt Print No Sain
act at 10-russer covers chase at Lingfeld (2m,
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ARTIC WHISS best Prize Match 9 in
and ARTIC WHISS best Prize Match 9 in
young start of the service chase at SABPLE ARTITIMETIC Mill 3h.
Solutions: All CHIT!

3.05 TOTE NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (£10,748: 3m 5f) (12 runners)

(A40: 300 30) [12 FORTHERS]
1-86418 AS DES CAPRES 7 (B.G.S) (C.Cuben) J Gifford 3-12-9 ... I. Marconto 1
1-86418 AS DES CAPRES 7 (B.G.S) (C.Cuben) J Gifford 3-12-9 ... I. Marconto 1
1-863-9 PLASTIC SPACE-(EF 16.5) (Sancase Phatics) J DN 13-11-4 ... T Geombern 1
1-863-9 PLASTIC SPACE-(EF 16.5) (Sancase Phatics) J DN 13-11-4 ... T Geombern 1
1-863-10 PLASTIC SPACE-(EF 16.5) (Max J Mouth) N Tractor-Dastes 19-11-1 ... J F Thiny 1
1254-15 SPACE (EF 16.5) (Max J Mouth) N Tractor-Dastes 19-11-1 ... J F Thiny 1
1251-101 MAARAN 62 (F.G.S) (Max J Mouth) N Tractor-Dastes 19-11-1 ... T Transford 1
1251-101 PEARA (18.7) (S Research May 19-11-1 ... A Transford 1
1251-101 PEARA (18.7) (S Research May 19-11-10-1 ... J Listery 1
13713-1 SPACE (18.7) (S Research May 19-11-10-1 ... J Listery 1
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3.40 WARRINGK GOLD CARD HANDICAP HURDLE (Cualifier: £7,460: 2m 4f 110yd) (18 runners) Long laudicay: Bellinger 9-11. Kear 9-5. Continerator 9-3, Argele's Enable 9-1, Neutonaut Moppel 9-0. Fundo 9-11, Ricoards 8-0. Girs Mager 7-7 (#FRING. 5-1 Processor 6-1 Hots And Proc. Pleasate Stand, 7-1 Stand (in Pro. 6-1 Project, 1)-1 Allegates 12-1 offers.

755 WHALE HAN 7-10 6 D 07 Mars (14-1) C Wante 24 (24 FORM FOCUS

HOPS AND PUPS that Sheel Mangaca. 12 or 2-opers made at Rentzuy (2m 51 open to tem). BELL STAFFEUY that Cathole 11 or 3-metric conducts made at Execute (2m 42 116)-6, pand-tre constitution and EMCORE UN PUT sheet 5-dp of 7 to those Conviction of constitution bearing that the constitution and the sheet of the con-traction from 34-1 or 8-metre traching backs at 8-mage (3m, great) with KARAR (1th better off)

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ATTEMPTO ry - a significant the signifi The William Book COURT HERE T the entally was

RACING NEXT WEEK

TUESDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 1.15), Carlisle (1.30). WEDNESDAY: Wolverhampton (AW, 2.00). Nottingham (1.20). Windsor (1.40).

RACELINE OS91-168-168

Britain fields six in rich handicap

Family Way can add to Moore's tally in Ladbroke

By OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT

BARNBROOK AGAIN, in 1987, was the last Britishtrained runner to go home with The Ladbroke, a handicap hurdle run at Leopardstown, to his name. Six attempt to put that record straight on the prevailing testing ground today, but the losing run looks sct to continue.

& Forsehic

Chief's Song, the recent William Hill Hurdle winner, is the shortest-priced of them although even he is quoted at around the 14-1 mark. The Arthur Moore-trained Jeffell heads the sponsor's ante-post list alongside Derrymoyle, but the solution to this annual puzzle may be Moore's other representative, Family Way.

Francis Woods, the stable jockey, had the pick of Jeffeli and Family Way and it is significant that he chose the latter, who slipped up in this race last year. I rode Family Way in the race last year when we thought he had a big chance," Woods said. "We were knocked down in general crowding after the third hurdle and I am sticking with him

this time." Moore, who has won this race five times, including when it was known as the Sweeps Hurdle, was inclined to agree with his jockey yesterday. "Fran has probably made the right choice," he said. "The horse is a good handicapper

who has run well in the County Hurdle and is in good form. It's a very open race though, run on a tight track, so it can be a bit of a lottery."

Family Way has had only the one run this season, when fourth to Kharasar at Thurles in December. That race should have him ready to reproduce the form he showed when narrowly beaten by Home Counties in the County Hurdle at Cheltenham

HICHARD EVANS

Nap: FRONT STREET (2.10 Ascot) Nb: Seasonal Splendour (1.00 Ascot)

Richard Evans was in sparkling form at Ascot yesterday, napping Treasure Again (14-1), and selecting Percy Smollett (7-1) and Certainly Strong (15-8) in his television guide.

Graham Bradley has come in for the ride on Jeffell, who won at Limerick on Boxing Day, but this long striding sixar-old may not be suited by the hurly-burly of The Ladbroke Mark Dwyer's mount, Derrymoyle, the runner-up last year, invariably runs well but just as regularly seems to find one or two too

Chief's Song needed the full

Elsworth runs two in pursuit of a lucrative success in The Ladbroke this afternoon

2.20 100 LADOROKE HANDICAP HURDLE (Ir£39,200: 2m) (23 runners)

2.20 BITTERN HANDICAP HURDLE (\$2,970: 3m) (14) MENCACE

12.40 Highbank. 1.10 Bark N'Bite. 1.45 Romany Creek. 2.20 Cametto. 2.55 Addington Boy. 3.25 Floating Line, 3.55 Native Field.

GOING: 6000 (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES)

12.40 SHOVELER CONDITIONAL JUCKEYS SELLING HURDLE (£2,099: 2m) (16 runners) DANI SOUND 30 (0.5.0) J flogrand 8-12-4. E (
ASPERTEN 925 (2.0) A floresco 9-11-12 D J I
BARDAREN 925 (2.0) A floresco 9-11-12 D J I
ALBARZAR 9 (6) (6.74% 6-11-6. E) 5 0-0 AND THEN 15.147 26 5 Parks 5-11-6 2 Parks 5 Color RELEVE IT 258 IN EXCESS F-11-6 3 Explor 1 2003 RUTE'S PRESE 26 IN 3 Simile 5-11-6 IN LINEAR 25 Explor 2 2004 RUTE'S PRESE 26 IN 3 Simile 5-11-6 IN LINEAR 25 EXPLORED 20 ST LOVE 5-11-6 IN LINEAR 25 EXPLORED 20 ST LOVE 5-11-1 IN LINEAR 25 EXPLORED 20 ST LOVE 5-11-1 IN LINEAR 25 EXPLORED 27 FOR EXAMPLE 4-10-6 IN LINEAR 25 IN LI 1-2 reground, 3-2 Regreet, 3-1 One Sound, 8-1 Achdess, Red's Prob. 7-1 See You Again 8-1 Africade, 15-1 others

1.10 TEAL JUVENILE MOVICES HURDLE (£2,728, 2m) (25 runners)

7 Design (25 Trumpers)

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1 Design (25 Trumpers)

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,45 pritari handicap chase .

1 2-5 HOREST WORD 26 (F.S.) & Bookston 1'-11-18. J Ration
2 2533 SEASER STER 28 W ELFS St M W Easterly 9-11-8 R Gently
10-4P MERICA GRAD 7 5 6.51 8 Variety 5-11-9. P Richardsin
1133 REBORN CREEN 21 NURTY 6.55 6 States 7-14-8 Classed
1351 THE REAL CRUE 9 (8) 69 6 States 9-14-1. W McKathan
1 - 065 STOCK FRAT 8 (S) 2 Limb 3-10-8. A Manusers (7)
1 7-50 TREET MORPESSE 3 - Makes 3-10-8. A Debthir 11-4 Com Dok 5-1 Pg Suf Das 7-2 Hones Bord 4-1 Renau Gold, 5-1 kinnen Dom 16-1 Conce Port 65-1 Pasth Memoria

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRANSPORT M. CARTESTO. 4. elements from 7. noments. 57.1%; J. activities of them 25. 25.1%. Bits. M. Reseiter, 20 from 115. 25.0%; M. et Scharter, 3 from 15. 25.0%; M. et Scharter, 3 from 56. 20.7%; G. Parist, 4 mins, 20. 18.7%. JOHNSON P. S. Sance, S. Horsen, Plant 13 Lides, 2007s, P. Moret, 32 from 125 LBCS, L. When 15 hour St. 1EAS, T. Reed, 15 hour St. 1EAS, T. Reed, 15 hour St. 1EAS, B. Cobber, 12 for 77, 12 ft, 9 found 4 hour 32, 12 ft.

SHAP MOREOF A GLOMEN 24 (C.S.) J. Informer 6-13-6 ... R Danks
3 3-44 PRIDE OF MAY 9 (V.S.) C Fairbard 6-13-6 ... R Danks
5 3-44 PRIDE OF MAY 9 (V.S.) C Fairbard 6-13-1 ... # Smith
6 21-6 SREYBL 47 (D.S.) S. Ball 6-11-1 ... # Smith
7 P122 RYE GROSSING 9 (7) M H Eastbay 6-10-11 ... L. Whee
8 P045 CAMBERTO 8 (P.S.) R Bones 9-10-10 ... G. Barbard
9 SP31 DOMMER 9 (D.S.) K Batey 8-10-6 ... T J Manuby (S)
10 2231 RELE PLAYER 8 (V.C.D.F. (S.) Mrs. S Bognal) 8-10-4 ... J Barbard
11 3802 MORMANI 6 (D.F., C.) Mrs. M Browley 10-10-6 T J. Commontod (7)
12 30-1 GYMARAN TICER 72 (F.G.) G Hainers 6-10-3 ... A Dominio
13 5802 PORNAMO GLEH 8 (C.F.) P Cheesbroich 9-10-2 ... R Sepuin
14 P040 RESTINO 8 (D.D.C.S.) W Consemplara 10-10-0 ... W Ny
4-1 South Westerly, 8-1 The Lest Flanc, 8-1 flyn Common, 7-1 Gymaran Tigar, AlbePlayer, 8-1 Forward Glan, Dommon 10-1 others.

Richard Dunwoody drive to

beat Eskimo Nel at Sandown

and had Bookcase and Squire

Silk behind him. It is difficult

to see Simon Dow's charge

improving much from that effort but he should still fare

That, however, should not

be good enough. Given a clear

run, and in The Ladbroke that

has to be taken on trust.

Family Way looks a reason-

able bet to give Moore another

Moore and Woods pitch

their Arkle Trophy winner,

Klairon Davis, against another Champion Chase candi-

date, Strong Platinum, in the

McCain Handicap Chase. On

form, Strong Platinum has the beating of Klairon Davis, but

he is a horse who thrives on

good ground and today's soft

surface can tilt the balance

Richard Dunwoody takes

the mount on Rough Quest in

the Pierse Leopardstown

Handicap Chase. Terry Casey's gelding is due a change of luck having been runner-up to Couldn't Be Bet-

ter in the Hennessy and

Unguided Missile in the

If Dunwoody can restrain

Rough Quest early on, the

horse's undoubted class can

see him deliver a decisive late

Betterware Cup at Ascot.

Klairon Davis's way.

best of the raiders.

success in this race.

2.33 IMPPER NOVICES CRASE (Grade & (£12,444, 2m 4l) (6)

1 1122 CLABRIAN CHALLENGE T OF EST M H Endag 7-51-8 13-8 Contains Challenge, 2-1 Addington Boy, 5-2 Amp Assen, 8-1 olietts.

3,25 HERON NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

23,048: 27a) (18)

3. 0.2 REDATY 28 M Basschungh 7-11-13.

3. 0.3 R.DATMG LINE 35 E Abban 8-11-8

3. 543 WESDAR 37 (VLD) K Mangar 4-11-3

5. 4750. 120 A 60 D. B WOODMARE 6-11-2

5. 4750. 120 A 60 D. B WOODMARE 6-11-2

5. 4750. 120 A 60 D. B WOODMARE 6-11-2

5. 4750. 120 A 60 D. B W Shamy 5-11-0

6. 1032 EBMY 24 (D.S.) 1 Date 7-10-13

3. 376 ADMARIA S GAT 7 M W Exchang 8-10-13

3. 376 ADMARIA S GWEH 24 (D.S.) 1 Date 6-10-11

10. 00. 120 A 60 D. B F MANDAR 1-10-13

11. 000. 120 A 60 D. B F MANDAR 1-10-13

12. SPR1 BOLANEY ERR. 40 (D.F) F Mandar 1-10-8

13. 0044 CURRENT SPEEDA 28 (D.M H Exchang 1-10-8

14. 0127 CADEAUX PREMERTE 52 (D.M F) Dony Scale 5-1

15. 3002 ON A PEDESTAL 55 Mrs. J Ramozion 4-10-0

16. 31-0 DEDOCROTE 72 C Farburs 5-10-0

17. FOU SILVER SLEEVE 7 M Hanscood 4-10-0

18. FULL DAMO CRUES 33 J Houst Libron 6-10-0

19. FULL DAMO CRUES 33 J Houst Libron 6-10-0

3.55 MALLARO HAMDICAP HURDLE (£2,944; 2m 4f) (17)

Richard Guest, was banned for three days (January 22-24) at Musselburgh for misuse of the whip aboard the Sue Smith-trained Dream Start, who finished fifth to Kimberley Boy in the Links Selling Handicap Hurdle.

HESUS THE WEST PROPERTY STATES MEETINGS

Ascot Goods specific and see a places Table 201 To the War of Faith (C. 1546) To the War of t 1 30 Jan 2011 Monthern Saction (R Duraction 9-15, 2, Zepte 15-17, 3, Marie Joseph 7-11, Deer Do 11-4 for 1 care MR Contract of Sales, Relation 7-10 ESS 52, 10 10, 12-72, 15 222 for CSF 524-95, 10-207, 1104-52.

POINT THE BE 2.05 FT- THOSE I STORM MONTH IN CHOICE, TO THOSE CONTINUES (TOO OR THIS I PURPOSE STORY A VINSBAR (12-1) TE FORM THE TOWN THOSE STORY AS IN THE MINE V ACTUAL TO SEE TO SEE SEE TO SEE TO THE STORY THOSE STORY AS IN COSE THE SEE THOSE STORY IN COSE THE SEE THOSE STORY IN

3 05 For 10km are 1. Pency Smoken (A Memory 1972) I provided Misses (1974) I provided Misses (19 Statement Ensurer Agent & Bern, and Record Ensurer Land Statement Ensurer Agent & Lands and the Control of the

PRINCE NOT NOT SPECIFICATED TO PARTY PROPERTY OF PRINCE SPECIFICATION SP

Musselburgh Going: good

Sorry, good 12.45 (2m holled 1, Direct Rhade IP Carberry, 4-17; 2, Starsh The Cash (10-1); 3, Caraca-veloy (25-1) Toujours Rheera (1-8 for 13 part 41, 123 J. Johnson Tota: 54-67; 51-30 51:100, 520-90 DP 68-10 Tree 522-00 CSF 58-75 1.15 (2m hole) 1, Manchest Ming R Gardy.
5-11, 2, Boscur JJ Reiters, 6-11, 2, Robsen
4-1 J-lan/: Appendictor Money 4-1 3-lan 13
ran 34:8 M Meanmond Role 55:10, E1 80,
E1-40, E2-90 DF- E14-20 Tro. E7 40 CSFE36-65,

1.45 Cm holes 1, Numberley Boy (P Noven, 4-1), 2 Febry Rose (3-1 tm), 3, Cossel (5-1)-12 mn, 10(, 2), Mrs M Fleveley Total (5-50), 52.20, 52.0, 52.0, 07 Febry Total (5-50), CSF \$15.72 Texast \$56.53, CSF 215.72 TRUST \$165.82 (A DODDA: 5-2.15 (2m dai 1. New To Severa (A Dodda: 5-2). 2 Krows No-No (10-1); 3 Tarro Card (150-1); Aragos 19-30 Inv 13 ran NR: Galer-A 13: 12° C. Rosmann. Tolk: 63.10° (150-12° 40° (65); 30° (16-40° Tarro net won pool of \$100.66 carnod forward to 3.45° at Accel boday) CSF 226.11

Astronomy Core 22nd 1
2.45 (2m ethodo) 1, Lielathen (P Never, 8-1)
2.85 (Cream (30-1), 3, Don't Tel Judy (301) Topasseyer 5-2 for 15 cm 4, 71 Max M
Roseley, Tole, ES 50, 5213, 61 43, 613-60
16 (3) 70 Teo, not ser (200) of 579-53
barried forward to 3.45 of Accor boday) CSF
633 40 Topast 52 311 49 Int on Teach 12 311 62 3.15 (2m d chi 1, Chambing Gale (A York, 7-1). 2 Pusine (9-2, 3 Pusin Mar (96-1). Cross Course 3.2 for 9 mm 9 mm 111. 63 Mm 5 Beachers 101 62 61,740 66 5278 (9-3), 17 60 DF 210 50 Teac 555 22 CSF 26-30 Teach 21,740 58 (26.30 funct \$1,767.58 3.45 Am inde(5, Native Crown | A Wat, 33-11; 7 Lett (4.5 feb); 3, C/Actian Street (5-2); 7 Ref 5, 5, 164.5 Brackmark foot (23.66, 01.40 Et 10 OF \$15.40 CBF \$257.72

Placepot: £128.60. Cluadator not won (pool of £47 10 canted forward to Ascot today).

Southwell

2.30 (1m 3) 1. Modest Hope MAs D Neclected, 10-1); Z. Mr Monerty (5-4 tw/; 3, Beauman (8-1); S sp. 2, Z. B Rechmond Total E11.00, \$2.10, \$1.10, \$3.70. DF: \$12.80 for \$54.80, \$35 \$23.74. Totals: \$106.41. \$106.41.
12.55 (5)] 1, Dissentor (G Carter, 12-1); 2, Kra (B-1); 3, Stand Tall (2-1 lav) 12 ren, 3, 2; J Glover, Tole: (14.60, 42.20, 42.40, 61.70, 51.70, 51.70, 50.80, 60.55); 5105.76, Trucast £255.70. 1.20 (m. 10,000 E.C.) (M.S.S. S. Kalloutey, 13-2, 2. Cather King (2-1); 3. Common's Legend (5-5 tar) 7 ran, NR Mondaie, Shind, 8. Miss. G. Kelleway, Tony 15-50; 53-20, 11.10 DF: £13-40 CSF £19-39, Tileaut, 123-58. 22158. 1,55 (2m) 1. Eulogy (1 Achley, 12-1); 2, Supermodel (12-1); 3, 31 Nido (7-4 tavi, 13 ran, 51, 201 K Burko, Toter 511 20; 63 20, 64 00, 61.70. DF. £167.80. Tree: £130 50 . CSF £144 41

EA3.42. Turest £183.67.
2.55 (1m 4) 1. Gelesiid Choir (R1.Expin, 6-4 law); 2. War's The Verdict (6-1), 3. Terns Gern (7-1) 6 ren 13t, 5. J.Eyre. Tole: £1.90. 13.0. £2.60 DF: £4.50. CSF. £10.21. 30. £2.60 DF: £4.50. CSF. £10.21. 32.5 (7) 1. Finat Gold: [5.D Wilsons, 10-1); 2. At The Savoy (11-2); 3. Sanse of Prioray (5-4 las), 14 ren, 143, 344, J.Wharton, You. £4.50, 12.30, £3.00, £1.20 DF-162.10. Ther £2.80 CSF. £186.78. 226 GT CRF 186 78.
3.55 (1m) 1. Mapte Bay (P Roberts. 3-1 fau) 2. Benjamint Law (6-1): 3. Barnel CF Hope (8-1). 13 stp. 3, 61 A Basey Tojer (3-2): 61 Bb. 51 90; 525 DF 51 85 Ten. 50-20 CF 52 55 DF 51 85 Ten. 50-20 CF 52 55 DF 51 85 Ten.

Dunlop keen to promote rise of Colonel O'Kelly

A COLONEL threatens to steal the spotlight from the army as the 1996 point-topoint season begins this weekend. Today's Army fixture at Larkhill opens proceedings but tomorrow's Garth & South Berks meeting at Tweseldown boasts the star act, Colonel O'Kelly.

The 12-year-old brown gelding won four times from five attempts last year, but his role on this occasion has added significance as his owner is John Dunlop and his rider the champion Flat trainers 19year-old son, Harry, who is making his British debut.

The involvement of a lead-

ing licensed trainer is nothing

new to point-to-pointing: lan Balding rode regularly until three years ago, the Easterby brothers are owner-trainers and Tim Forster is an enthusiastic owner, to name but a few. While all those illustrious names treat the sport as a hobby, another member of their profession, Paul Nicholls, is adding a fresh dimension. The Somerset-based trainer takes in young pointers who have learnt the basics and attempts to produce champions. His unbeaten

hurdler See More Business is a fine example. Nicholls, in conjunction with Richard Barber, who handles the young horses as

finds the champion Flat trainer declaring

an interest in the season's opening weekend

Carl Evans, point-to-point correspondent,

pointers, is setting trends. But two national riders' titles it is the increasing standards while Saunders has been unrioverall which have upgraded valled in training hunter chase winners.

pointing's importance. Pointing has changed enormously in the last 20 years. Newcomers to the countryside have discovered the sport's attractions and bought horses which they place in livery yards. The owners want results, so the livery yards copy professional training methods and use competent

Point-to-pointing has long regarded itself as a nursery for National Hunt racing but it was primarily thinking of horses. Now would-be jockeys cut their teeth between the flags, as do trainers, with an increasing number of livery yard owners taking out licences. Barber has no ambition to do so, nor does Sheila Crow or Caroline Saunders, who handle big strings in Shropshire and Northamptonshire respectively.

Crow's canny purchasing of young horses - Yukon Gale and Inchfountain are two to watch this season - has helped her son, Alastair, win

point-to-pointing has this week been labelled Britain's most dangerous sport by Dr Michael Turner, the Jockey Club's chief medical adviser. However, the fear of injury

will not deter those who love the chase and there will be plenty of runners at today's opening fixture. Britain's champion woman rider, Polly Curling, partners Rural Outfit for Barber in the Ladies' Open but has to make way for Tim Mitchell on What A Hand in the Land Rover qualifier, a race restricted to men. Curling rode What A Hand to win The Times Rising Stars final at Newbury and will be on the horse for his long-term objective, Cheltenham's Foxhunters' Chase.

It is somewhat disappoint-

ing that in this era of fitness

and competence-awareness,

TODAY'S MEETING: Army, Larkhil, 5m NW of Arnesbury, Wits (inst race 12.00) TOMORROW: Cembs Harriers. Cotten-ham, 4m Nof Cambridge (12.00); Garth & South Berks, Tweseldown, 3m W of Aldershot (12.00).

LINGFIELD PARK THUNDERER

12.50 Lasi But Not Least. 1.25 Mitroswaki. 1.55 Never So Rite. 2.30 Mystery Matthias. 3.00 Masmun. 3.35 Stalled. Our Newmerket Correspondent: 12.50 Miss Pick-pocket, 3.35 Captein Matmalade.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: 5F-1M 2F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

12.5U ARTHUM LUMITED STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,698: 5f) (5 runners)

5-2 Mics Pickpoolet 11-4 Last Bel Mai Least, 3-1 Constay Auch, 5-1 Copper Bright, 11-2 Brakes D'Or.

1.25 TYRONE MADEN STAKES (£3,989: 1m 5f) (18)

3-1 Alegorati, 7-2 Kymn, 5-1 Rogel Legerd, 7-1 Contile Jeopárdy, 6-1 Olymes, 10-1 Tanger 1.55 ARMAGH HAMDICAP (E3,046: 1m 4f) (8)

7-4 Tables Game, 11-4 St Valueties, 5-1 Ligans Sc Rick 11-2 Serious Ophics, 18-1 Galantine Label, 16-Scotteric

2.30 LONDONDERRY HANDICAP

3-1 Stocky Apportion, 4-1 Rant, 9-2 Castle Governor, 5-7 Spierrago Pocca, 6-1 Mar. Common, 7-1 Marrier, Marriera

3.00 DOWN CLAIMING STAKES (£3,275: 1m 2f) (14)

3-1 Macaum, 7-2 Early Phase, 9-2 Greenwich Again. Tokail Phase, 6-1 Johan's Phase, 8-1 Gallic Victory, 18-1 The Little Ferrel.

3.35 FERMANAGH AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP

1 25-1 CUANSO 11 (C.F.O.S) R Hollackers 5-11-7....... N Receil T3 2 080- SR THOMAS (RECHAM 25 (CD.B) 5 Dow 6-11-5 T McCastly 2 3 41-3 STALLED 11 (CD.D) P Waters 6-11-3

7-2 Campa, 4-1 Stated, 9-2 Deat Drop Series 6-1 Colordon 7-1 Capture Manustata, 8-1 Wild Standary.

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS: Bob Jones, 6 womers, from 25 removers, 24 0% D Maurity-Smith, 11 from 52, 21,2%; Lord Handingston, 34 from 162, 21,0%, 7 Cole, 16 from 67, 20 7%, Afric G Federacy, 9 from 62, 18 6%; 71 Calleghan, 13 from 75, 17 3%.

JULIESE J France, 4 women from 13 from 30, 24, 35 from 79, 12 4%; Miss Darm Joses, 4 from 20, 20,3%; These, 19 from 997, 17,3%, J F Spin, 3 from 22, 13,0%, 6 Center, 17 from 142, 12,0%.

Enlightenment lobby calls on help from above



HUGH ROUTLEDG

SIMON **BARNES** On Saturday

WE ARE now only beginning to pull out of the Slough of Despond which we enter annually on that dread day when we are robbed of an hour of light and life: that awful moment of the year when "the clocks go back". This is ghastly for all sorts of reasons, but it is the legitimate concern of this column because half our sports need daylight before they can happen. I am delighted to report that help is at hand from the British Time (Extra Daylight) Bill, which aims to give us back our lost hour.

Organisations supporting the Private Member's Bill include the Sports Council for England and Wales, the Sports Council Scotland, the Lawn Tennis Association, the Scottish Rugby Union (which has been in the dark for too long already), the British Horseracing Board, the Scottish Canoe Association and the Scottish Parachute Club. It is worth supporting the Bill simply to prevent the ghastly rain of kilted parachutists hurtling down over Scotland from a

darkened sky. The Bill should, its backers claim, increase road safety and personal safety, and nelp tourism, especially in Scotland. It will also give children a chance to play football after school. If the Scottish parachutists do not convince you, the chance for an extra session of threegoals-and-in should do so.

Own goal

Henry Kissinger is famous for being the only American who likes football. Having acquired from somewhere or other a taste for intervention in international affairs, he has single-handedly saved the Concacaí Gold Cup from extinction. This was, or is, a nine-team international foottournament taking place in the United States for the soccer-playing nations of Central America and the Caribbean as well as the United States.

Naturally, the United States was not going to make a fool of itself by actually allowing the teams into the country: it managed to get all the documents stuck in the mangle, bound with red tape. Kissinger got stuck in himself, lobbied the White House, dynamited the obstruction and freed the documentation in the nick of

Mind you, you can't blame ship football club.

Americans if they sometimes get a mite confused about football. This week the Portuguese club, Sporting Lisbon, made a 1,000-kilometre round trip to play 145 sec-onds of football against Chaves. The 145 seconds were required to complete a match suspended because of a floodlight failure. It ended (twice) as a 1-1 draw and each side claimed it should have received the full points because the other had broken the rules. Pelé, now 55, is going to have an operation to reverse his vasectomy. You read it

Understrength

Greg Chappell was mentally unfit to captain Australia on that infamous day when he ordered his younger brother, Trevor, to bowl underarm, with New Zealand needing six to win off the last ball. "I was just exhausted mentally

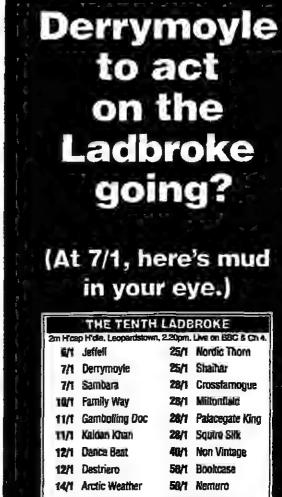
Hes been under a lot of strain recentle



and physically, wasn't think-ing straight," he said on Australia radio this week. The incident took place in 1981, but, "it continues to be brought up nearly every day of my life".

Bulldozed

A shame that Hereford won't be able to bring their bully mascot to White Hart Lane for the FA Cup replay against Spurs on Wednesday. Police and Tottenham officials fear that the bull will be "upset" by the Tottenham crowd. Perhaps they fear that the bull, called Free Town Kudos, will do a Cantona. The Hereford chairman, Peter Hill, expressed his disappointment. adding that he had offered not to charge Tottenham for fertilising their pitch. But there's always plenty of that commodity at any Premier-



14/1 Bank Statement 50/1 Ring The Alarm 14/1 Chief's Song 66/1 Leggagh Lady 22/1 Reactivia FOR INSTANT BETTING FROM SAM, FREEPHONE 0800 524 524

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Ladbrokes For a bet, Ladbrokes are favourite.

Saturday portrait: Tim Henman, by Stuart Jones, tennis correspondent

Maturing talent born to carry nation's great expectations

state of British tennis, which he considered lamentably low, he said that standards could be raised by one individual. He insisted, though, that the identity of the person he had in mind must not be

Pickard explained that one player, by breaking into the top echelons of international tennis, would lift those just below him in the domestic ranks. Their progress would, in turn, encourage those beneath them. He called the policy, the most expedient solution to the seemingly endless problems, "the pyramid effect".

He was speaking in Portugal some 20 months ago, a few minutes after another dispiritingly familiar Davis Cup defeat and a few hours before he was to leave his post as British team captain. Although expansive in his criticism, he argued that the player concerned should not be exposed as a potential saviour.

To avoid any lingering misunderstanding, however, he agreed to confirm whether a name written on a piece of paper was indeed that of "the unmentionable one". There was no need. Everyone in the room at the Oporto tennis club knew that he was talking about Tim Henman, then 19, from Oxford,

His talent compared to others of a similar age was so strikingly obvious that the supposed cloak of secrecy was translucent. Yet Pickard wanted the youngster to be protected from carrying the burden of the country's expecta-

tions prematurely.
On reflection, Herman might have been born and bred for the role. In the lower branches of his family tree is a great-grandmother who made an improbable impact at Wimbledon almost a century before her descendant gained notoriety for becoming the first competitor to be disqualified from

the All-England championships. Ellen Stawell-Brown was the first woman to serve overarm at Wimbledon, an innovative (and, according to accounts of the time, whimsical) weapon which she used to beat Charlotte Cooper, who had already won the tourna-

ment five times. Henman's grandsliver of optimism. Amid a father, Henry Billington, reached savage verbal assault on the third round of the men's singles in 1948, 1950 and 1951.

Three of Billington's children competed at junior Wimbledon and one of them, Jane, is Henman's mother. She represented Oxfordshire at tennis and so did his father. Tony, who also played hockey, squash and cricket for the county. He wore the colours of Headington United, too, before the dub evolved into Oxford United and attained League status.

Henman himself picked up a racket at the age of three and had decided within a couple of years to pursue a sport which plainly runs through the family blood. The line would otherwise have been broken. His two elder brothers possessed neither the aptitude nor the

> 'His ability was so strikingly obvious, the cloak of secrecy was translucent

Henman's future was threatened almost as soon as it had begun to take shape. He damaged an elbow at the age of II and was forced out of competitive action for 18 months. His career was in similar danger in 1993, a year after he turned professional.

As he changed direction in the forecourt during a match against a compatriot, Chris Wilkinson, his leg snapped in three places just above the ankle. Recovery took six months and three pins inserted then are in still place. Nevertheless, the injury did have one significant compensation.

The national junior champion in 1992, Henman had all the shots. Some said he had too many and, when he came to the net, was confused by the wealth of his options. But he did not carry the weight of shot. In a profession populated by muscular giants, he stood tall (6ft lin) but was considered too slender.

While he was inactive, he put on much-needed pounds. That's home cooking for you," his mother confided during the journey from Vienna to Bratislava for a Davis Cup tie in the Czech Republic. Although her son featured in the predictably heavy defeat on clay. the benefit was about to be recognised.

The change was noticed by Jeremy Bates, the most regular of his doubles partners, at last year's US Open as Henman came of age. Still so youthful in appearance that he was taken by several onlookers for a schoolboy, he came through the qualifying competition and

reached the second round. Not only his game had devel-oped. While he had formerly been shy and awkward in media circles, he learnt to respond amicably to disparaging comments. A critic of his habit of exchanging "high fives" in doubles, for instance, has since been customarily greeted

with the practice... Henman's maturity was perceptible in the immediate aftermath of the infamous incident at Wimble-don last year. Knocked out of the singles by Pete Sampras, he and Bates were defaulted from the doubles after a ball he hit in a fit of pique inadvertently struck a ball

The match was the last to be completed that day and, in the twilight, the grounds of the Ali-England Club were virtually deserted. Correspondents, alerted to the news after they had left, were initially reluctant to return for a which defied belief and

In a poll, the mild-mannered Henman would have been perhaps the least likely to earn the unprecedented penalty. He would have been high on the list, though, of those who would be suitably contrite and dignified during a crowded press conference. In the most unlikely fashion, "the un-mentionable one" had gained worldwide recognition.

Pickard had proclaimed that Henman, during a tour around the Far East towards the close of 1994, had to infiltrate the world's top 100. Then we will know whether or not he's going to make it." The broken leg delayed the

breakthrough by a year. Henman won a challenge tournament in Seoul last October, reached the semi-final of another in Peking and claimed a second title on the island of Réunion.

In the middle of the hectic and profitable schedule, he beat Greg Rusedski in the final of the national championships after yielding the opening set in little more than 20 minutes.

During an unbeaten sequence of 21 matches, he collected enough

points to climb to No 95 in the world rankings. The immediate reward was, for the first time, to gain entry into the main draw of a grand slam event, the Australian Open, which starts in Melbourne on Monday. Progress will be difficult, however; he is due to If Pickard's theory is correct, the meet Petr Korda, the big hitter

from the Czech Republic. During his build-up this week, he defeated Mark Philippoussis, to whom the Australians are looking for their future. Coached by David

Felgate, the manager of the men's national training department, Henman has already established himself as Britain's finest homegrown player and poses a serious in his adopted country.

rivals are conveniently sharing the responsibility of elevating domestic tennis. They share the same self-belief,

though Rusedski has aggravated

his peers with his arrogance.

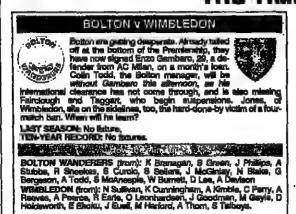
gentleman, on and off the court. A closing word of caution, however. If he offers to play golf

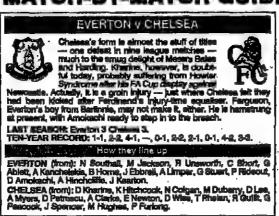
Henman, in spite of his aberration

for even a menial amount of money, turn down the invitation. Without either formal training or practice, and claiming to have no official handicap, he recently went round the East Sussex course in four over par.

Rusedski beaten, page 42

THE TIMES MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

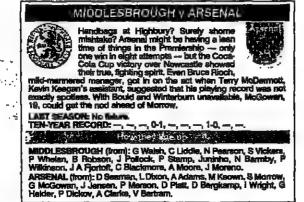






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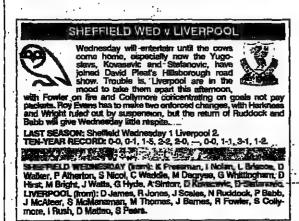


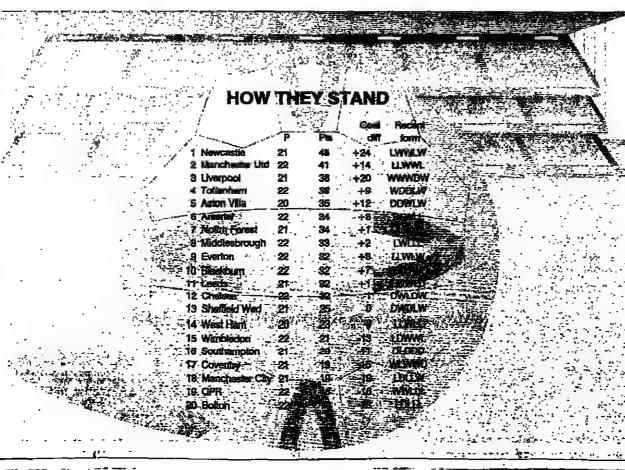


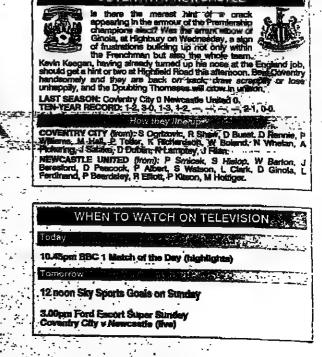


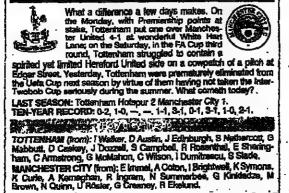
TOMORROW











TOTENHAM V MANCHESTER CITY

Duberry's style and assurance provide convincing defence

Shreeves believes that Duberry

can handle the praise. "The boy doesn't seem a Charley Biguime." he said. "He seems a sensible, solid

lad." Indeed, Duberry is still home-

ly enough to ask, after Chelsea's Premiership game at Highbury last

Alyson Rudd on the rapid rise of a young English

player who is proving the critics wrong at Chelsea



the "quiz" out of phone-in quizzes, with either-ors as taxing as: Was Bobby Moore captain of a) England

Another might be: Who has just turned Chelsea into a defensively assured, continental-style passing side; a) Ruud Gullit or b) Michael Duberry? However, this question would require serious consider-

Chelsea are doing OK at the moment and Michael is one of the reasons," Peter Shreeves, the Chelsea assistant manager, said. After Chelsea's impressive display against Newcastle United in the FA Cup third round, Alan Hansen called Duberry the new Bobby Moore. Yet, two months ago, nobody had heard of him. Duberry, born in Enfield, is that

increasingly rare commodity: a player who starts his footballing life as a Premiership trainee and makes his mark with the same club. No, he is rarer than that, for Duberry was a success in his early teens because he was tall, quick and strong. Such players normally fade from view as their contemporaries add a couple of growth spurts to their ball skills. Duberry, however, still looks stronger than most and is as astute a defender as can be found in the

Cup, because English clubs were still banned from Europe

when the London side won the FA Cup in 1988.
If either club were to qualify

for Europe in any way in the next five years, the one-year

suspension will come into

force and then be deemed to

have been served. However,

the FA is to seek clarification

over possible anomalies. If either club should win the FA

Cup, and thus invoke the ban,

will the losing finalists be allowed into Europe in their

If Tottenham, as is possible,

finish high in the Premiership

and qualify for a Uefa Cup place, but are banned, will

they be replaced by the club

fielded more competitive sides

in the Intertoto, Uefa con-

firmed yesterday that they had

been reprimanded by the con-

trol and disciplinary commit-tee for a "less serious

Manchester United have been found guilty, by an FA

disciplinary hearing, of a breach of the rules regarding

their acquisition from Arsenal

of the teenager, Matthew

the player has since returned

infringement".

to Highbury.

immediately below them? Although Wednesday, the third English representatives,

It could still go wrong. Duberry is just 20 and has played only a dozen month, if he could take the Tube home with his mother. " Duberry lives in Tottenham but first-team games. Not surprisingly, Glenn Hoddle, his manager, is was persuaded to sign for Chelsea at keeping him away from the media 13. He captained the youth side and spotlight. "Some youngsters think looked an impressive right back. He they've arrived when they reach the first team," Hoddle said, "but I've moved up to the reserves and made his senior debut last season against Coventry City. Ndlovu dazzled,

that the hard work has only just Duberry did not, and another first-

earn chance seemed years off. When, at the start of this season. Mel Machin, the Bournemouth manager, asked Shreeves if he could borrow a defender. Duberry seemed the obvious choice. He played for six weeks at Dean Court, improving Bournemouth's goal difference with every performance and then, in November, he was suddenly recalled as Chelsea's defence struggled against injuries and suspension. Duberry had learnt his

lesson. He took Elland Road.

Yeboah and Deane in his stride, and

immediately caught the eye. He has

been selected and saluted ever since.

honest, we thought he needed another season, but that's how doors open. If you told me at the start of the season that my back three would be Duberry, Lee and Myers, I wouldn't have believed it."
It is probably because he is playing alongside Lee and Myers that Duberry has been so at ease. They all emerged through the Chelsea youth scheme and played together frequently in the reserves. They have a camaraderie and have proved so successful that Lee kept his place as sweeper even when

Gullit returned from injury. Frank Sinclair's return to fitness is the main threat to Duberry's position, but Hoddle will not want to meddle with a back line that has become the most important piece in the jigsaw of his passing-football

coming, but the pundits are drooling and Chelsea will not be outclassed at St James' Park in the Cup replay next week.

To try to keep Duberry's head a modest hat size. Hoddle and Shreeves stressed that he still needs to improve his ball control and to learn how to become part of Chelsea's attacking options. His performance against Newcasile, however, when he subdued Ferdinand and found space and time to venture forward with a Baresi-style nonchalance, indicates that the Chelsea coaches will not have too many problems in that department.

Gullit might not think Englishborn players can cut it abroad, but the most continental aspect about Chelsea right now is not necessarily provided by a Dutchman.

Tottenham suffer consequences of **Uefa** retaliation

By Russell Kempson and David Maddock

TOTTENHAM Hotspur and Wimbledon have been suspended from European competition for a season after their failure to take seriously the Intertoto Cup last summer.
The ban was imposed by Uefa, football's governing body in Europe, and will remain active for five years. It covers the European Cup Champions' League, the Cup Winners' Cup and the Uefa Cup.

Reaction from the clubs and the Football Association was swift. With Tottenham and Wimbledon giving notice of their appeals, the FA pledged its full support. "The news came as a complete surprise to us," Steve Double, a spokes-man for the FA, said. "Lawyers are already being consulted."

Alan Sugar, the Tottenham chairman, remained typically bullish. "There must be a very big misunderstanding and I'm sure it will be cleared up very shortly. We entered the Intertoto Cup by way of a favour to the FA and FA Premier League and received permission from them to play weaker teams and even to use players from other clubs and to also play at other clubs'

"I believe we even confirmed this in writing and also received an assurance by tele-phone from Uefa that nothing Europe in 1992, in the Cup

Winners' Cup. Wimbledon were denied their only chance to date, in the Cup Winners' would happen if we proceeded on that basis. Therefore, the wires have been crossed somewhere and I'm sure it will be

Cup the following season.
At first, the FA Carling
Premiership clubs were enthu-

and Wimbledon fielding almost unrecognisable line-ups. and bowing out of the compeany payment to the clubs' for their participation.

Then, more recently, they reduced by one the number of English clubs who can qualify for the Uefa Cup next season. Now, the five-season suspension. "It is, in effect, Uefa's third ban," Double said.

Ginola lifts Newcastle with pledge to stay

NEWCASTLE United's fears Premiership match at Coventhat David Ginola's treatment try City. By then their lead would persuade him to leave England were dismissed yesterday (Peter Ball writes). "I'm staying with Newcastle Uni-Ginola insisted. "I wasn't happy about what happened at Arsenal, but what is worrying me most is my forthcoming suspension."

With Ginola facing a threematch suspension in two weeks time, and Gillespie injured, Newcastle are reaching a testing stage of the season. They face a replay with Chelsea in the FA Cup after tomorrow's FA Carling

The Intertoto Cup was the brainchild of Uefa and, not It was to take place during

surprisingly, it was linked to substantial television revenue. June, July and August, with the semi-finalists earning an automatic place in the Uefa

giastic. When the day of acceptance arrived, though, there were no takers. Eventually, the FA had to offer financial incentives for the clubs to compete, with Tottenham, Wimbledon and Sheffield Wednesday, reluctantly, accepting. However, with Tottenham

tition at the group stage, Uefa retaliated by, first, witholding

The clubs reached a compromise when Wicks, the son of Steve Wicks, the former Queens Park Rangers and "I'm concerned about the happy at Old Trafford. An FA spokesman said last lack of invention away from

night: "We take this matter home. At times we look ordivery seriously and United nary, but I know we can put it were facing a substantial fine right," Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, said. but, because the compromise "But there's a danger of has been reached, no further getting sucked into thinking that we are having a really action will be taken, apart from United paying the costs bad time. Yet we are seven points clear on top of the

of the hearing."
Manchester City have agreed a 6400,000 fee with Premiership. If we are having a bad time, what about the Sunderland for Tony Coton, their unsettled goalkeeper. Manchester United However, the clubs are still have taken only nine points negotiating over the method of from their last eight games, so



Havelange, left, presents the Fifa gold award to President Mandela, while Blatter, right, the governing body's general secretary, applauds

Mandela grasps the power of football

Mandela is unique. It is more of a wrist-grip that does not let go, a symbol of the remarkable way South Africa has moved - and is still moving - from the black hole to the cradle of the sporting

This weekend it is football United, however, escaped a "substantial fine" — in the region of £200,000 — because that feels Mandela's grip, after the inspirational blessings bestowed on rugby and cricket. Specifically, Neil Tovey, who happens to be the white captain of the predominantly black South African sport of football, is the man who has felt his president's warmth.

> hotel on the outskirts of Johannesburg, he was led down the steps by his president, the wrist-grip firmly and relentlessly applied. This leader, who has a symbol for everything, was wearing a replica of the No 9 shirt that Tovey will wear as he leads his nation at the First National Bank stadium this afternoon.

South Africa will play Cam-eroon in the first match of the 6-country African Nations Cup. It will then be for this resurgent sporting land to add football to the sports that have been fully embraced since the Rob Hughes on a tale

At the hotel it was happy hour, in contrast to what had been hostile hour in another Johannesburg establishment. Another president, Fifa's

Joao Havelange, who has never mastered Mandela's humility and never reflected the man's joy in sport, had stonewailed at a press conference at which African journalists accused him of using South Africa in particular, and the African continent in general, as a political means of trying

If any of the footballers we are about to see in this tournsment can sidestep and dodge the tackles with as much dexterity as Havelange

employs to ignore pointed questions and accusations, then we are in for athleticism of the highest calibre. He did not deny anything; he merely declined to under-stand. We did learn that when Havelange visited Nigeria in November, as nine dissidents were being executed, he had

given succour to the military

at the launch of the African Nations Cup

of two presidents

regime by promising some-thing he could not deliver — 2 world youth tournament longpledged to Malaysia. Havelange was voted down by his own Fife executive.

Nevertheless, he felt able to try to persuade Nigeria, the Afri-

'He promised something that he could not deliver' spite having to find an entirely

can champions, to reverse their decision not to defend their title here. In the words of Fifa yesterday, Nigeria's only excuse is that they fear ade quate safety could not be assured in South Africa after Mandela had called for international sanctions against their country.

Nigeria are not due to play until tomorrow, the door is still open and the team are

ing and hoping to be allowed the freedom of sporting expression. If Nigeria fail to play, they will be suspended from all competitions, including the next World Cup.

Nigeria is not alone in troubles affecting football; Cameroon are also in disarray. Again politics impinges on sport, the Cameroon sports minister having dispensed with the Football Federation's executive a few months ago. Sierra Leone is in the midst of

a threat by players to strike strong in Zambia, which has qualified for these finals from 51 competing nations de-

of three years' ago. Africa has the world's leading player of 1995, George Weah, not only leading Liberia, but paying from his own pocket for players scattered all across Europe to travel to qualifying matches. Today is the kick-off; yesterday was the hour when Mandela

mellowed the harshness of

new team after the air disaster

Havelange. They met in the same grounds where Mandela greeted his footballers. Havelange presented Mandela with Fifa's gold award, and then confirmed his pledge to use his position to assert that 2006 should be Africa's year to

stage the World Cup. He stated that South Africa was the one country in Africa that could stage such a tournament, and invited Mandela to give his full support to the idea. The smile on Mandela's face was broad as he responded: "That support I give with-

out reservation." Mandela said something now is proof of the backing Fifa gave to South Africa during the period of isolation. The really significant achievement we could have is of this cup bringing African nations closer together."

His own nation starts the competition today, playing with the pride and the belief of having drawn against Germany and Argentina during a 15-month unbeaten run that the players claim coincides with the personal backing they have received from the new

FOR THE RECORD

Keegan's case rests.

BASKETBALL MATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Adures 87 Toronto 79 Detroit 95 Charloss 93; Indiana 96 Manualee 88; Phoenix 111 Golden State 106, Los Angeles Cappers 109 Manesota 83 Semi-final agries; Group A: Olympique d'Anabés (Fr) 88 Iraids; Salonika 63, Ulterspor (Turi 87 Benetton Treviso (1) 83, Olympiakos (Gr) 72 CS/A (Russ) 78, Bayer Leveriusen 88 Unicaja Melaga 94 Group 8: Maccator Tel Aviv 75 Fiadi Machor 77; Buckler Bologna 95 Câtona Zagreb 73.

CRICKET PERTH (World Sones Cup: Australia wor loss) Australia beat Sr. Lanka by 83 runs

L OF WICKETS: 1-189, 2-208, 3-251 30, 5-260, 6-266 BOWLING: Vaas 10-1-33-2; Pushpakumara 8-0-41-0; Wickernasinghe 9-0-60-0 Ohannasena 10-0-51-0; da Sikra 1-0-7-0 Kalpage 2-0-18-0; Jayasunya 10-0-48-2

Katpage 2-0-18-0; Jayasumya 10-0-48-2.

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A P Gunsaniha b McGrant 4
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Umpres. D Her and P Parker

110) v New South Wales. Hobart: Victoria 275 (1 Horwey 85, D Jones 53; J Marquet 453; Teamins 17-1.
PAUSSTAN WORLD CIP BOUAD: Wisdom Avaran (capitan), Aamin Sohed, Seden Annar, Eger Ahmed (Srl., Javed Mandad, Selem Malik, Insamant-ul-Has, Remiz Raja, Rashad Latil, Waqar Younis, Aaqui Javed, Ataur Rehman, Mushting Ahmed, Saqiam Mushlan Reserves: Mon Khan, Mahammhad Asasto, Summ Elah, Shand Annar

FOOTBALL CONCACAF GOLD CUP: Group A (Sen Deget: Manico 5 St Vincent and the Grenadines 0.

GOLF CREANDO: LPGA. Toursement of Chempions: Pirst round (LS unless stated), 67: L. Naumann (Swe) 68: M. Nausa. 80: M. Nausa. 80: M. Nausa. 80: M. Nausa. 80: M. Origona. 72: C. E. Thomas. P. Shethan. 71: K. Webb, L. Kogorna. 72: C. Johnson. T. Green, D. Eggeling, L. Daves. (GB), A. Nicholas (GB)
SAN ROCUE, Spain: Apolito Challenge tournament (GB and ire unless stated): 71: S. Webter. 74: P. Harrington, G. Clark. 75: P. Syloand (Swe): 76: M. Welch, S. Galacher, T. Gogote (Gert).

ICE HOCKEY MATIONAL, LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 7 Aneherm 2. Sen Jose 2 New Jersey 1; St Louis 4 Philadelphia 4 (OT); Washington 6 Ottawa 1, New York Handers 4 Toronto 3.

GRANADA TO DAKAR RALLY: THINK GRANADA TO DAKAR RALLY: Twelfin stage (Kilfa to Kayes, 279-m): Carst. 1 Parmiterque (Fr. Caroán) 3 to 00 mm 45 ec; 2. LP Fontensy (Fr. Missubish) at 8 min 21 sec; 3. P Lartique (Fr. Caroán) at 15-30; 4. A Vatanen (Fin. Citnoán) at 15-30; 5. S Sevia (Sp. Caroán) at 17-34. Overall positions: 1, Lartique 5-4 m 36 min 03 sec; 2. Warnbrogue at 1:07-55; 3. Fontenay at 1:43-20

SNOOKER

BLACKPOOL: European Open: Final qualitying round (England unless stated) N Foulds for T Murphy (N lie) 5-4; J Swal (N lie) to M Bennett (Wales) 5-0; J Johnson for G Wilkinson 5-1; A Davies (Wales) for M Price 5-1; K Payne for A Hamilton 5-2; I Brumby for A Robidoux (Carl 5-3, M Campbell (Scot) for W Thome 5-4, C Scanfon for B Morgan 5-3; D Finbow for D Paynolis 5-2; I Fernandez for M Clark 5-0; D Taylor (N lie) for M Johnston-Allen 5-2; S James for J Prince (N lie) 5-4; T Chappel

SQUASH

TABLE TENNIS

MANCHESTER: European Olympic qualifying tournament: Selected results: Merc Stage one: M Swed (GB) bt P Steerfel (Pol) 21-19, 21-17, 19-21, 29-9, Women: Stage one: G Keen (Holf) bt A Holt (GB) 23-21, 19-21, 26-24, 21-10, 21-16; L Lorros (GB) bt E Kortun (Ukr) 17-21, 21-19, 21-12, 21-14; P Fraith (Stovens) bt A Broe (GB) 21-16, 17-21, 21-5, 21-19 Frailt (Slovenia) 21, 21-5, 21-19

MELBOUPME, Auroraine Cobornal Chasse exhibition tournament Semi-final: Y Kaleirakov (Russe) by A Agessai (US) 2-6, 6-2.

7-6.

DAVIS CUP: Euro-African zone gazup three (in Nairobi): Greece bt Bulgana 3-0: Kenya bt Congo 3-0; Botswana bt 10go 3-10; Moldavis ot Dibous, 3-0; Campoton bt Cyprus 2-1, Ireland bt Zambia 3-0 (treland names first): S Barron bt K Sinkaia 6-3; 6-6; O Casey bt S Bwalya 6-1; 6-0; Barron and Casey bt M Kombe and I. Nidelwai 6-1, 6-1.

Mystery of

the two as he was required to measure out exactly 40 litres of Ruddles County.

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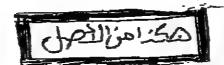
He was presented with two barrels, one having a 30 litre capacity and the other being able to hold 50 litres. An antimited supply of this west marrellous beer was available and he could fill each of the barrels as many times as he wished. However, the hapless individual failed to pazzle it out.

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A top 30 litre and 50 litre barrol export from the Raddles brewery announced plans to release information leading to the solving of this conundram, advising people to put their minds at rest by revolving their heads 180 degrees.



Post 20 liftes Heas B into A. Rafill B. Post 10 littes into A. leaving exactly 40 liftes is B. 5-Sintian: 30 litre barrel & fill B. Fill B. outly into A leaving 20 litres in B. Emply A.



Reluctant Robson pushed to top of the list

ALL five of the leading con-tenders to succeed Terry Venables have announced that they do not want to be the new England coach. Gerry Francis and Glenn Hoddle yesterday added their names to the list of declared non-runners, joining those of Bryan Robson, Ray Wilkins and Kevin Keegan.

The Football Association will not take any notice of these public statements and will instead try to persuade the selected candidate — even if he should be one of the big five why he should take probably the most difficult post in

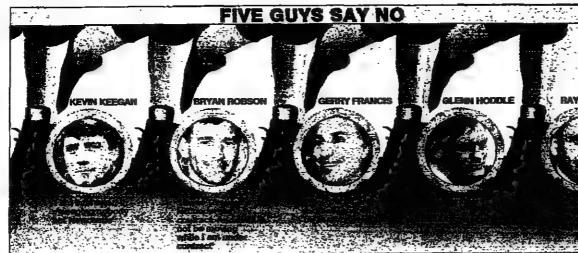
English sport.
With the FA still resigned to losing Venables after the European championship in June. Robson was yesterday installed as the new lavourite with the bookmakers for the post. Ladbrokes quoted him at

Robson, one of Venables's assistants with the national

squad, has been less adamant than his fellow FA Carling Premiership managers in his refusal to be considered. He also has an "escape" clause in his contract with Middlesbrough if he were to be offered the post as England coach. However, he is inexperienced and has yet to achieve consistent success as a manager.

The former England cap-tain was clearly being groomed as a possible successor to Venables after the 1998 However, Venables's stated

desire to concentrate next autumn on a series of court cases, arising from his longrunning dispute with Alan Sugar, the Tottenham Hotspur chairman, and allegations about his business dealings, has upset the timing of the continuity of experience valued by the FA. The national governing body will decide next week on the members of the panel charged with select-



pected that he will work alongside Venables at the European championship and then take over the task in the autumn of leading England in the qualifying games for the 1998 World Cup finals.

Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, said: "We would hope we have an ideal candidate, who is English and has played international football for England. If the man we want is under contract, we will approach the necessary people

and ask for permission to

Later this month, Jimmy Armfield, a technical consultant to the FA, will begin ng the feeling of coaches and managers, as he did

likely to find that the professionals still think Venables is the best qualified man and there is a theory that the leading contenders will agree to refuse the job because they

said yesterday: "If people would support Terry Venables rather than kick him, he might change his opinion. I worked with him for 18 months and he

is the right man for the job."
Francis said: "I am still of the same opinion as I was two years ago, when I was inter-viewed about the England position. That is that if my future is in football, it would be at club level. I would also urge the FA to persist, if possible, to try to persuade Terry to change his mind and not to lose the invaluable experience gained over the last

two years." The case for Venables will weaken if the Premier League directly criticises the England coach when it delivers its longawaited report in the next few weeks into transfer dealings. Details of the deal involving the move of Teddy Sheringham from Nottingham Forest to Tottenham, when Venables was at White Hart Lane, could

and may force the FA to take

A further complication for the FA is that it also has to appoint a technical director who will oversee the coaching from grass roots to the elite level. He will be senior to the England coach but the FA wants the pair to have similar views on playing style and

Mandela's greeting ... Duberry's defence

assessment of players. Ian Stott, a member of the international committee and chairman of Oldham Athletic, said that his choice was someone "currently involved in the England set-up". This is a clear pointer to-

wards Robson, although Wilkins has been working with Dave Sexton on developing the England Under-21 squad.

England's stamina tested by schedule

FROM SIMON WILDE IN JOHANNESBURG

IF IT is Saturday, England's travelling cricketers would have reasoned as they woke this morning, it must be Johannesburg. If it is Johannesburg, they would have thought as they drew back their curtains and looked out, it must be the third one-day international. By breakfast, they would have remembered it will not be Johannesburg for long. Tomorrow they drive an hour to Centurion Park for the fourth match and on Monday IIV TO LJUITDAN TOT THE IIITH.

With two gruelling matches completed in Cape Town and Bloemfontein in the past four days, this weekend will test the stamina of both England and South Africa and their managements can be expected to spread the load by resting several players in one or other of the first daytime games in the seven-match series.

Of England's 17 players, only Robin Smith, Jack Russell. Mike Watkinson and Richard Illingworth have yet to appear and all should play today or tomorrow. Smith certainly will, probably as an opener, but Illingworth is still recovering from the side strain he sustained two weeks ago. If he is not fit by Monday, he may return home. With the score standing at

1-1. the series is set up nicely though after England's fivewicket victory at Springbok Park, Michael Atherton, the England cuptain, was still rueing his side's failure to win the first match. "It is irritat-ing," he said. "We should be 2-0 up now. But we showed the killer instinct we lacked in Cape Town in the second match. Although there were one or two times when we might have let things slip. I never felt we were going to lose once we needed five an over from the last ten overs. The feeling in the dressingroom after the defeat in Cape Town was not one we want to experience again."

There were several other encouraging aspects about England's performance on Thursday. One was simply the fact that they beat South Africa for the first time in seven matches, another that

drian Stoop may not have liked it, but, next

have liked it, but, next season, the rugby

union ground in Twicken-

ham that bears his name will

feature the glitz and glamour usually associated with

American sport. Harlequins,

founded in 1866 and with

more than 200 international

players to their name, are to

introduce dancing girls and

cheerleaders in a total-enter-

One says Harlequins ad-

visedly - from next Septem-

tainment package.

the batsmen finally operated as a unit again. Three of them - Atherton, Hick and Thorpe - made half-centuries for the first time in an international since the first Test.

The control exercised by Hick and Neil Smith was also heartening, bearing in mind the slow pitches of the Asian subcontinent on which the World Cup will be played next month. They came on to bowl with Hudson and Snell rampant and dragged England presents himself as a possible partner for Illingworth in the World Cup. England's decision to use a

pinch-hitter was taken only in the interval between innings but it worked well enough for them to try it again. On Thursday, the choice lay between DeFreitas and White -DeFreitas being chosen - but in future the options may include others.

One of the benefits of the strategy is that it helps the balance of the side. When Fairbrother was fifth out with 42 runs still needed from seven overs, it was reassuring to see Stewart walking out rather than one of England's several bowlers-who-bat-a-bit.

Far less welcome was Ramprakash's continued failure. It was typical of his luck that he should be run out by an exceptional piece of fielding by Rhodes but England have not given up on him, despite his record of five runs in five innings. Raymond Illingworth, the manager, said yes-terday that he wanted Ramprakash to play over the weekend.

"Mark was very down last night," Illingworth said. He remains very much in our thoughts for the World Cup. He is an outstanding fielder and runs well between the wickets." Ramprakash's ability in the

field is a strong factor in his favour because, in this area, England look far from world champion material. "We were not 100 per cent last night. There was a lot of fumbling and eyes taken off the ball," Illingworth said. Unfortunately for Ramprakash, these are not problems Rhodes has.

ber, they will be officially

known as NEC Harlequins,

after the announcement ves-

terday of a substantial spons-

orship, over three years, by

the Japanese communica-

tions giant previously associ-

ated with Everton Football

Federation Cups in tennis.

Club and the Davis and

development programmes

take on an entirely new

meaning. Part of the agree-

ment is specifically to fund a

development officer to attract

All of a sudden, youth



Bird bows to Father Time

IT WAS the hardest decision Dickie Bird has ever made. Cricket's best-known umpire has given himself out after standing in 65 Test matches, more than anyone else, and 92 one-day internationals.

His detractors will say that it makes a change from saying "not out" because, if there was ever any criticism, it was about his tendency to give batsmen the benefit of the doubt, but most cricket lovers

will be sad to see him go. Bird has agreed to retire from international cricket after umpiring one more Test — fittingly at Lord's when England play India in June — because, he says, the time has come to give somebody else a chance. A feet work these much harder work these days," he said. "You get tired and you are continually under

the eye of the media." One suspects that it is the television camera more than fatigue that has persuaded him to call it a day. He has built his reputation on an almost uncarmy ability to make the right decision, so it came as a shock when he had to ask the third umpire, watch-

youngsters to the game from

the capital and beyond, but

NEC suggested that cheer-

leaders might prove a valu-

able addition to the ground

attractions beyond those pro-

Pat Gibson says intrusive TV may have influenced a popular umpire's decision

ing a TV replay, to decide whether Graeme Hick had been run out in a one-day international last summer. Bird does not like television's intrusion into his job

but television likes him - the white cap, the twitching of the shoulders as if his back is bothering him, which it sometimes does, and the shooting of the cuffs. Television has been good to him, too, because it has shown how often he did get things right with a swift and unerring judgment which was completely at odds with the rest of his character. He is a born worrier.

Everything seems to have happened to Dickie since he was a young batsman at Barnsley, where they still talk about how he managed to buckle his pads together and fell over when he tried to go out to bat. Yorkshire dropped him after he had scored 181 not out and, while he was fielding for Leicestershire, he crashed head-first through a boundary

Japanese sponsorship brings cheer to Harlequins

David Hands says stalwarts

at the Stoop could be in for a

shock next season thanks to

a deal announced yesterday

Staples respectively.

captains of England and

Ireland, Will Carling and Jim

It struck a chord. We want

4.000 people in our new stand

to go away feeling they have

board and a joiner had to cut him free. When he went to London to umpire his first county match in 1970, a policeman apprehended him as he tried to climb over the wall of the Oval at 6.30am.

It snowed when he was umpiring at Buxton in the flaming June of 1975, water came up instead of down because of a blocked drain at Headingley in 1988, it rained for the first time in five years when he went to Sharjah and sunshine glinting off a ware-house roof stopped play at Old Trafford, of all places, last

There was a bomb scare at Lord's, where he sat on the covers on the reasonable assumption that there would not be any explosives underneath them, firecrackers under his feet at Trent Bridge, courtesy of Allan Lamb, and a mobile phone on which Ian Botham rang to ask him to tell Lamb to play a few shots. Memories, memories ...

from the game, from pre-

match entertainment, from a

family day out." Dick Best,

the club's director of rugby.

said. "I was privileged to be at the World Cup final and the entertainment laid on by

South Africa that day was

outstanding. We will have to

get a professional outfit

because we want to do it

properly, but there is an

additional budget for market-ing and promotion."

The agreement, reported to

be worth more than £15

escape the winter chill of his beloved Barnsley, when he is not umpiring abroad. He is 63 and, although he will carry on ampiring in county cricket for two more years, he knows that the time is right to end his international career. "I have always said that the most important thing in um-

reliving them all yesterday at Torquay, where he likes to

piring is gaining the respect of the players and I like to think that I have done that throughout the world," he said. Dickie used to say that cricket was his life. Now the

bachelor, who once received several proposals of marriage when he admitted that he was sometimes lonely, says that cricket is his wife. He is not seeking a divorce.

☐ Peter Willey, a former Eng-

land batsman, has been promoted to the National Grid international umpires panel. Willey and George Sharp replace Bird and Nigel Plews, joining Mervyn Kitchen and David Shepherd as England's

Leading article, page 21

million, is only the first stage

of the club's refurbishment.

Harlequins are in negotia-tion with three more com-

panies for investment that

will help underpin contracts

for around 35 players, intend-

ed to bind a core of players to

Harlequins until 1999. "We

will be highly competitive in

the terms we offer our players." Roger Looker, the chair-

man, said. He denied that the

incorporation of NEC into

the club title implied any loss

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Bird and colleague David Shepherd in relaxed mood

after abandoning play at Lord's. Life was rather nore serious for him as a player with Leicestershi

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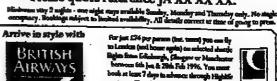
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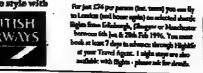
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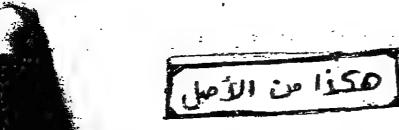
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WEEKEN

THE TIMES SATURDAY JANUARY 13 1996

Portrait of a very royal marriage

HE QUEEN has been through family troubles in the past few years which would have shattered someone more emotionally fragile than she is. For her personally there has been just one consolation. The events of the annus horribilis and its aftermath have drawn her and her husband closer together. Philip has gone out of his way to show his affection and support for

"They have come together very much lately," a courtier said. On occasions when Elizabeth carried out some evening function without him, she would return to find him waiting up for her even if it was after midnight. "I think he's been absolutely wonderful to her and incredibly supportive and sort of around," a relation said.

sweet really." Elizabeth has a dream, a fantasy that she knows she can never realise. There is a valley in Lancashire, near Clitheroe and the beautiful Forest of Bowland, where, she once told a friend: "Philip and I would like to retire to . . . " But their relationship has not always been such a tranquil one, particularly in the early days.

Tommy Lascelles, who was the King's private secretary, probably summed up early court reactions to Prince Philip when he told a friend, They felt he was rough, ill-mannered, uneducated and would probably not be faithful." What Lascelles meant by "rough and ill-mannered" was that Prince Philip was "cocky".

HILIP was attractive to women. Apart from his physical appeal, he was good company. "He was very amusing, gay, full of life and energy and he was a tease," his cousin said. Before he had first met Elizabeth at Dartmouth in 1939 there had been girls in his life, including a beautiful young Canadian debutante, Osla Benning. In the summer of 1939 he almost became engaged to her, but rumour had it that his uncle, the ever-vigilant Lord Mountbatten,

had other prospects in mind and put a stop to it. When Philip and his close friend Mike Parker had been based together in Australia on the Pacific Station during the last year of the war, there had always been "armfuls of girls" on their nights out ashore, according to Parker. News of their escapades had reached the ears of senior courtiers at the Palace. One confided his doubts about the likelihood of the future Prince Consort's remaining faithful in the light of his behaviour in Australia; but, like most courtiers, he would not report this kind of thing to his

There had never, apparently, been anything serious: he was too cool emotionally to fall in love. "Philip [and his uncle, Louis Mountbatten] are cold, Germanic Battenbergs, a relation said of him. He was dominant, masculine, but not a romantic. "He's 150 per cent male and that's his trouble really," a contemporary said of him. Typically he was always dismissive when later questioned by biographers about his romance with Elizabeth, as if talking about such things

was not what a real man would do: I went to the theatre with them [the Royal Family] once, something like that. And then during the war, if I was here I'd call in and have a meal. I once or twice spent Christmas at Windsor, because I'd nowhere particular to go. I thought not all that much about it, I think. We

used to correspond occasionally ... Philip's independence of spirit and his refusal to kowtow to anyone were qualities which particularly appealed to the young Elizabeth. surrounded as she was by the deference of courtiers, servants - anybody, in fact, with whom she came into contact outside her own family. They were not, however, qualities which

endeared him to courtiers. Opposition to the idea of her marriage with Philip came not so much from within her own family as from the older courtier, Tommy Largelles, the most influential man at court, and



Mutual support: over the years, Philip and Elizabeth have drawn closer together. Yet as a newlywed, the Duke felt so stifled in his role that he called himself "a bloody amoeba"

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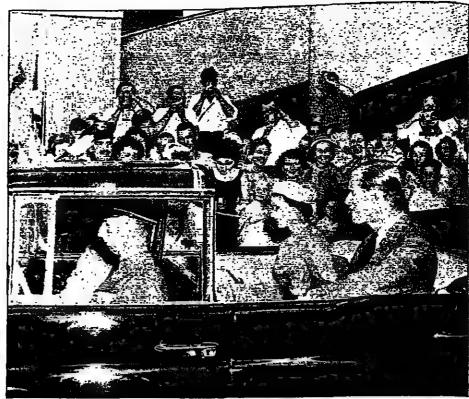
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

COVER STORY

'He shouts at the Queen sometimes, as he shouts at other people.











clockwise from left: At the start of their honeymoon; newly engaged at Buckingham Palace: on a visit to Toronto, Canada; repairing a bouquet, 1994; waves for the crowd in Liverpool, 1961

also from the King's old friends,

Lords Eldon, Stanley and Salisbury, and the Queen Mother's brother, David Bowes Lyon, "They were bloody to him one of Elizabeth's ladies recalled. They would have preferred the Princess to marry someone with a high position of his own, who would have slipped easily into court circles - a rich, sporting, English duke rather than a penniless foreign prince.

Elizabeth was probably unaware of the hostility towards Philip on the part of some of the courtiers and her father's friends, but if she had been it would have made no difference. She was in love with him and wanted to marry him, and when he proposed to her at Balmorni in the late summer of 1946, she accepted.

It does not seem to have been any formal kind of proposal. Prince Philip himself described it to his biographer in his usual offhand way: "I suppose one thing led to another. It was sort of fixed up. That's what really happened."

"Lilibet's engagement keeps meandering on for ages," Margaret reported to Crawlie tthe late Marion Crawford, hers and Elizabeth's governess). Nothing was to be official because the King wanted it that way

Prince Philip put it bluntly "After all, if you spend ten minutes thinking about it - and a lot of these people spent a great deal more time thinking about it -- how many obviously eligible young men, other than people living in this country, were available?

Some of the more romanticminded in royal circles thought that if Elizabeth and Philip were in love, they should show it more. They were thought almost too keen to take part in all the social activities, never showing lover-like tendencies to want to be alone with each other. The two of them had the same attitude towards displays of emotion, regarding them as some-

how "phoney".
Elizabeth's central relationship is with her husband. Despite the fact that, as friend admit, Philip is a difficult man and the Queen finds him difficult", she adores him and defers to hint, which seems all the more strange to observers in that everyone else delers to her "He shouts at the Queen some-

Marriage Milestones

● The Queen: Born Princess Elizabeth of York, London, 1926.

Children: Charles, b November 20, 1948; Anne. b August 15.

1950: Andrew, b February 19, 1960: Edward, b March 10, 1964.

• The Duke: Born Prince Philip of Greece, Corfu. 1921. • First met: Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, 1939.

Engaged. Announcement made July 10, 1947.
 Married: Westminster Abbey, November 20, 1947.

and she doesn't seem to mind. It's as if she thinks that's how husbands behave," a friend said. On one occasion, after Elizabeth had ordered something to be done in the park at Windsor, Philip exploded at luncheon: "What bloody fool arranged for that?" Elizabeth said, "I did." "Well," her husband shouted. "it was a bloody stupid thing to do." A brave courtier intervened. "Excuse me, Sir, but Her Majesty was quite right." "Well," said Elizabeth, "I'm glad somebody's

standing up for me around here. When he pays her a rare compliment, like telling her she looks lovely in a particular dress, "she looks like a child, looks like you'd given her the world". This does not prevent her telling him sharply to "shut up!" if he is sounding off about something he knows very little about, or in a way she thinks is tactless, usually in a Commonwealth context. In return he is protective of her. Nothing makes him angrier than a gesture which he might detect as the faintest disrespect towards her. "Keep that bloody camera away from the Queen!" he exploded during the filming of Royal Family, when he thought the cameraman was get-ting intrusively close to her. They understand each other on a deep level and the marriage works.

. HE QUESTION of Philip's fidelity is, like the real extent of Elizabeth's personal fortune, the last bastion which courtiers will defend to the death. Money and sex, the two questions which most excite the public interest, are naturally the ones which the courtiers least want to see exposed. In defence of their Queen, even the most open and truthful of courtiers

is prepared to lie or feign ignorance. Elizabeth notices: she is an exceptionally observant person. Once, at a party given in Scotland, Elizabeth was seated at a table beside the dance floor, ostensibly talking about racing But her eyes were elsewhere and, as the dancers parted, she could see her husband duncing very close to the hostess's daughter. She sees but she does not want to know, taking it all in her stride. Nor does she want to be told. When a lady-in-waiting attempted

her, despite their long years of friendship. Sadly, some years later the lady committed suicide.

Theirs is a very royal marriage; Elizabeth's generation was not brought up to expect fidelity but loyalty. Philip is not the man to fall hopelessly in love. Elizabeth under-stands his desire for independence and to be his own man and makes allowances for it. Philip goes his own way, restless, always on the move. He makes his own plans, often without consulting his wife.

In the beginning the marriage was a success on every level: physically, mentally and temperamentally the couple were compati-ble. Elizabeth was physically passionate and very much in love with her husband. Philip found her sexually attractive and was equally, although perhaps more coolly, in love. And importantly, for a man like Philip, he loved and respected her. Theirs was a traditional marriage. Elizabeth was used to a household in which the man came first and Philip was a particularly dominant male.

For a hyperactive and intelligent man such as Philip, the role of royal consort is not an easy one. His predecessor as consort was allowed every privilege. But then, as Disraeli once declared. Albert, husband of Victoria. was virtual ruler of England. Philip was made a Privy Counsellor, but Elizabeth had no intention of following the example of her great-great-grand-mother of involving her consort in her official business as ruler. When she became Queen she acquired a new authority. She would operate just as her father had, with access to state papers and reports of Cabinet meetings and parliamentary proceedings, supplemented by a weekly interview with the Prime Minister. Philip was relegated to carrying out official duties and the overseeing of the estates. He would have to carve out a role for himself. The imbalance between his pos-ition and hers, and her anxiety to compensate for it, were to influence the course of their and their children's lives.

 An edited extract from Elizabeth, A Biography of Her Majesty the Queen. to be published by William Heinemann on February 5, £20.

O Sarah Bradford 1996

PICTURE CREDITS Syndications International Popperfoto Camera Press **Hulton Deutsch** PA Photo Library Topham

Bickering and bad grace

House of Windsor triumphant

THE MOST wounding blow for Philip came only three days after the funeral of George VI. On February 18, 1952, an agitated Queen Mary reported that Mountbatten, Philip's uncle whose name he shared, had told a party of royal guests "that the House of Mountbatten now

Queen Mary had spent a sleepless night worrying over this and was greatly relieved when the Churchill-led Government came down "strongly of the opinion that the family name of Windsor should be retained". Descendants should continue to bear the family name of Windsor, and the Lord Chancellor was deputed to prepare a draft proclamation.

Philip subsequently had what a courtier described as "a huge row" at Sandringham with the Lord Chancellor — he really minded about it" — and followed up with a "strongly but ably worded memorandum" objecting to its intended declarations that the Royal Family remained the House of Windsor. This annoyed Churchill, who engineered two meetings with the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Privy Seal, the Home Secretary and the Leader of the House of Commons. "to draft a firm, negative answer", which was finalised and passed by

Churchill on March 12. Presumably because of the fierce behindthe-scenes row that the question had aroused, it was decided not to make it the subject of a public proclamation, but instead a declaration by the Queen to the Privy Council which would subsequently be published in the London

On April 7, the Lord Chancellor produced a memorandum for the Cabinet which recorded the Queen's amended draft declaration. The message was unequivocal: "I hereby declare My Will and Pleasure that I and My children shall be styled and known as the House and Family of Windsor. and that my descendants who marry and their descendants, shall bear the name of Windsor." Why did Elizabeth deliver what amounted to a slap in the face to her husband? Mountbatten,

whose tactlessness had brought on the whole affair, attributed it to Lord Beaverbrook's malign influence over Churchill. *coupled with Winston's disenchantment with what I did in India". But the feeling within the Queen's own family, particularly where her grandmother and mother were concerned, was strongly against any feelings of her father.

Elizabeth was particularly conscious of the continuity that her family represented and determined to carry on in the traditions which her father and grandfather had established, virtuous and dedicated, putting duty and ser-

vice above all else. Consequently, the first and principal casualty of Elizabeth's accession was her husband. Philip's naval career came to an abrupt end. Not only was he forced to give up a service in which he had spent most of his life, but also Clarence House, the first real home he had had, and on which he had lavished such care and attention. He suggested that rather than leave Clarence House, he and his family should continue to live there, while using Bucking-

"PRINCE PHILIP didn't want to go to Buckingham Palace," one of the Queen's household said, "but all the old codgers said 'you must go'." Churchill backed them up; Buckingham Palace had always been the home of the monarch and would continue to be so. Where Philip had once been so much in charge, his influence was now restricted to walking a pace behind his wife at public functions and organising as much of the private side of their lives as he was

ham Palace as an office.

allowed to do. Philip took it very hard. "I'm

nothing but a bloody amoeba," he exploded. He felt robbed of his identity and he was, perhaps, disconcerted by Elizabeth's new-

found ease and self-confidence. Philip's most recent promotion, agreed in Cabinet on February 22, 1957, was the title of Prince of the United Kingdom. This had not been Elizabeth's idea but the suggestion of Churchill, who told the Cabinet on March 2, 1955, that he had put it forward "in informal conversation with the Queen and that she had been iavourably disposed towards it. Elizabeth, perhaps significantly however. did nothing to follow it up for nearly two years, not until Febru-

In Cabinet, the Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan, characteristically claimed the credit for it. He had, he said, proposed the idea to the Queen "in recognition of the great services which HRH had provided to the country and of his unique contribution to the life of the Commonwealth, culminating in the tour which he has just concluded". What Macmillan did not say, but which was almost certainly his intention, was that this should knock on the head all the rumours about rifts in the royal marriage by making Eliza-beth be seen publicly to reward her husband for his services.



The fun-loving Duke of Edinburgh (centre) at his bachelor party in 1947, with his uncle Earl Mountbatten (right) and a friend

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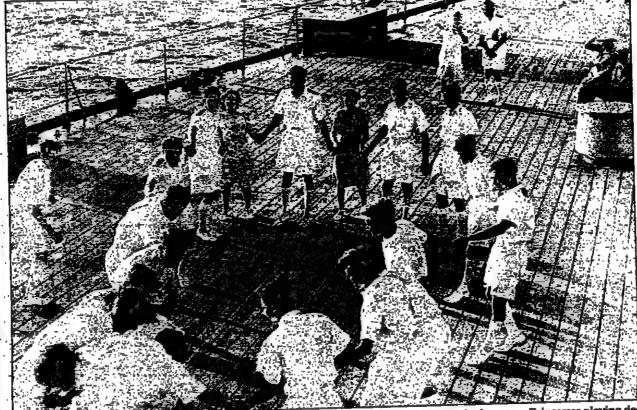
COVER STORY

.. she doesn't seem to mind. It's as if she thinks that's how husbands are'











Royal Family through the years: clockwise, from top left — Elizabeth and Philip at the Calgary stampede; at the Dorchester with Margaret; a formal portrait; the young Princesses playing deck games on board HMS Vanguard; on holiday at Balmoral

Rumours of scandal

Philip and the Thursday Club

British paratroopers were de-scending from the sky over the Suez Canal Zone, Elizabeth's husband was on the Royal Yacht Britannia off the eastern coast of Ceylon (as it then was). Accompanied by-Mike Parker, an old naval friend, and the artist Edward Seago, he was halfway through what was billed as a tour of the outlying territories

of the Commonwealth. Philip was escaping from the Palace. On that fourmonth tour he could feel free to grow a naval-looking beard and indulge his interests in watercolour painting, wildlife and science. By the time the tour was over, romours that Elizabeth's marriage was in trouble had made headlines across the world. "Last week," Time reported on February 18, 1957, "the (rumour) mongering winds were howling loudaround Buckingham Palace than they had since the day of Wallis Warfield Simpson and Edward VIII."

Gossip columnists digging into the pasts of both Philip and Parker came up with the Thursday Club, organised by the top society photographer. Baron. The Thursday Club was an informal luncheon club, of which members included leading journalists, the actors James Roberton Justice. David Niven and Peter Ustinov and humorists Patrick Campbell and Larry

IT was a typically all-male affair, with no purpose beyoud starting the weekend early. The members ate fish and drank Wheeler's house white wine, and the atmosphere, according to one member, was of "high spirits stimulated by the brilliance of the backehai", furny stories, barracking and dirty talk.

The animating spirit and original founder of the Thursday Club, Baron Henry Stirling Nahum (always known simply by his first name), was a colourful figure in London society. Baron introduced Philip, his cousin David Milford Haven, and Parker to a social circle in London which was as far removed as it was possible to be from Philip's royal in-laws "tweedy" and ultra-respectable friends.



Parted by the Palace: Mike Parker and Philip

It was a world in which aristocrats met showgirls, a peculiarly 1950s London phenomenon, which ended with the Profumo scandal in 1963. Baron and his brother were "passports to all sorts of people in London ... they were lively lads at a very lively

The Thursday Club did not confine itself to lunches. According to Larry Adler, a founder member with Baron, they gave Philip a "bachelor night" party at Baron's flat in the mews of Bruton Place -Boy, was he nervous ... his face was white with fear" and there would be an annual dinner for Philip at Mike Parker's flat. There were a lot of schoolboyish high jinks. At pre-wedding lunch for Guy Middleton, Philip and Milford Haven threw smoke bombs into the fireplace and the room filled with smoke.

was hushed up.
Pranks were one thing,
sexual scandal quite another. The Palace was not amused when gossip columnists

linked Philip with Baron's girlfriend, the beautiful musical star Pat Kirkwood, whose legs Kenneth Tynan once des-cribed as "the eighth wonder of the world". Their first meeting took place in October 1948, when Elizabeth was heavily pregnant with

when Baron came to pick her up at the Hippodrome Theatre near Leicester Square, bringing with him Philip and a naval equerry named "Basher" Watkins. They had dinner at Les Ambassadeurs, an ultra fashionable Mayfair restaurant and gambling club, moving to the Milroy nightchib, where Philip asked Pat Kirkwood to dance. Several couples, described by Kirkwood as "courtiers", looked shocked. Philip pulled faces at them, but they reported back to the Palace. The King was outraged.

Everybody's face was black, the police were called, but it Pat Kirkwood has always denied that she and Philip had an affair.

According to Pat Kirkwood some 40 years later, they met

There were rumours, too, of Philip's relations before his

marriage with Helene Cordet, who in the late 1950s ran a nightclub called The Saddle Room in Hamilton Place, but the Duke's authorised biographer, Tim Heald, insists that the two of them were just childhood friends.

Philip's defence, then and always, against allegations of infidelity was the impossibility of escaping from his detectives. At a party with Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands, husband of Queen Juliana, he once got down on his knees and salaamed to him — "You're a lucky guy," he told him. "I have six security men behind me all the time . . . Prince Bernhard, according to a witness, was

JOAN GRAHAM, the London-based "Mayfair Set Correspendent" of the Baltimore Sun, sent a report of "whispers" that "the Duke of Edinburgh had more than a passing interest in an un-named woman and was meeting her regularly in the apartment of the court photographer".

Thursday Club luncheons were represented as orgies and the rumour went round that Parker (who was in the middle of a divorce) had been dropped specifically so that he could no longer lead the Duke

Through gritted teeth, the royal press office denied that there was any rift between the Queen and her husband, and Elizabeth let it be known that she planned to fly that week to Lisbon to join Philip there. two days before beginning a joint state visit.

In anticipation of the meeting, Philip had shaved off the ginger beard he had grown. When he boarded the plane, he found the entire party. including his wife, wearing false ginger whiskers. Elizabeth emerged from the plane with a broad grin" and, after shaking hands with the assembled dignitaries, the couple drove off in dignified silence", according to the reporters, one of whom claimed to have spotted a 'tiny smudge of lipstick" on the ducal cheek - "an ail's well signal that spread to the four corners of the Earth", Time



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COVER STORY

'Elizabeth restrained the PM in some of her more tactless moods'

Tensions grow with Mrs Thatcher

Thatcher were highlighted by what became known as

the Sunday Times affair. On July 20, 1986, just before the Commonwealth Games were to be held in Edinburgh, having been boycotted by a number of nations in protest against Britain's stubbornness over sanctions against South Africa, The Sunday Times ran a front-page story that Elizabeth was deeply unhappy with Mrs Thatcher's policies: "This dismay goes well beyond the current crisis in the Commonwealth over South Africa. In an unprecedented disclosure of the monarch's views, it was said that the Queen considers the PM's approach to be uncaring. confrontational and divisive."

Elizabeth was horrified and Mrs Thatcher, always sensitive to the multiplying stories in the press that she and Elizabeth did not get on, was deeply hurt - so much so that she did not even mention the episode in her memoirs. The Queen's private secretary, Slr William Heseltine, in time-honoured fashion, wrote a letter to The Times in which he asserted the Queen's constitutional right to counsel, encourage and warn her ministers: "She is entitled to have opinions on Government policy and express them to her chief ministers." Whatever personal opinions the Sovereign may hold or may have expressed to the Government, he said. she is bound to accept and act on the advice of her Government". Lastly, the Queen was "obliged to treat her communications with the Prime Minister as entirely confidential between the two of them". It was "preposterous" to think that the Queen, after 34 years' experience, would have departed from those basic principles, he wrote. He admitted that the Queen's press secretary, Michael Shea, had talked to Simon Freeman, the journalist concerned, but claimed that he had "said nothing which could reasonably bear the interpretation put upon it by the front-page article of July 20". The claim that the contents of the article were based on information coming from Palace sources close to the Queen "constitutes a totally unjustified slur on the impartiality and discretion of members of the Royal Household".

Shea did not know Freeman, had never met him and the interview had not been face-to-face but over the telephone in response to Freeman's request for an interview on the general theme of "The Monarchy in 2011". According to Shea, the journalist extrapolated what he said into sensational claims about Elizabeth's unhappiness with Mrs

Thatcher's policies People close to Mrs Thatcher at the time, however, believe that, although Shea certainly never con-

sulted Elizabeth about any inspired "leak" of her views and that she would never have authorised any such thing, "there is no smoke without a fire".

No one at 10 Downing Street at

the time suspected Elizabeth of being involved in any way, but they did think it unlikely that Shea would have taken it upon himself to brief this journalist without consultation with some member of the Private Secretaries Office and an agreement that a carefully placed hint might "do some good". The Queen loyally stood by her Press Secretary. At Holyroodhouse, just after the story broke, Shea sat between Elizabeth and Mrs Thatcher, both of whom told him to pay no attention to the media rumpus, but nonetheless his position in relation to Downing Street had become difficult. Accompanying Elizabeth on the state visit to China. during which Philip made a widely publicised remark about "slitty eyes". Shea became involved in a televised scuffle with Chinese security guards. He decided that he had had enough and six months later left to join Hanson.

Eighteen months previously, in 1984-85, Mrs Thatcher had taken on the British coalminers in a prolonged battle which ended in defeat for the National Union of Mineworkers. At the very end of the strike Elizabeth and Philip visited The Times on the occasion of the newspaper's bicentenary. While Philip, in his customary forthright way, is alleged to have denounced the miners' leader, Arthur Scargill, as "a shit", Elizabeth was introduced to the paper's labour editor. Paul Routledge, as the man covering the miners' strike. She volunteered that she had been down a coalmine in Scotland that had closed soon afterwards and, after a pause, added, "It's all about one man, isn't it?" Routledge replied that perhaps it wasn't about one man and that, knowing the miners and having been brought up among them, he didn't think one man could bring out 100,000 men on strike for a whole year. There was a pregnant pause," Routledge recalled, and the party moved on. Eight years later, having written

an unauthorised biography of Scar-gill, Routledge admitted: "With the hindsight that has come from writing this book, I now feel that I owe the Queen an apology. By that stage, at any rate, the strike was about one man. Scargill may not have started the strike, but one word, one signal from him could have called it off . . . The Queen was

Elizabeth, therefore, did not blame Mrs Thatcher for the min-ers' strike. No one has ever discovered what her feelings were when Mrs Thatcher took the salute of the returned Falklands veterans in the parade through the City of London in October 1982. She may have reflected that the Falklands victory was very much Mrs Thatcher's, but other people thought it odd to see the Prime Minister standing on the dais instead of the Queen, who is head of the Armed Forces. Not one member of the Royal Family was invited to be present at this ceremonial occasion, in contrast to the 1945 parade celebrating the end of the Second World War, when the King took the salute with Churchill and

Attlee at a discreet distance, Mrs Thatcher did not, however attend the fortieth anniversary celebrations of D-Day in 1984 because she considered it very much the Oueen's occasion, and perhaps to avoid the repeated conjecture that she was upstaging the monarch. The newspapers ac cused Mrs Thatcher of ambulance chasing and elbowing the Royal Family out of the limelight by dashing to be the first on the scene of disasters like the sinking of the ferry Herald of Free Enterprise at Zeebrugge or the destruction of the Pan-Am airliner over Lockerbie. IRA outrages found the Prime Minister swiftly comforting victims. "She wanted to demonstrate solidarity with the people who suffered and to show that terrorists would never break British determination." an aide said.

onetheless, Downing Street was conscious of the impression that was being given and sensitive about it; there seems to have been a breakdown in communication between the Prime Minister. and the Palace as to who should go where and when. "The Royal Family couldn't be relied on to go." a Thatcher aide said defensively, and indeed there was widespread resentment when Elizabeth did not go to the Lockerbie disaster area but sent Prince Andrew instead.

The impression persists among politicians and Commonwealth members that Elizabeth did act as a restraining influence on Mrs Thatcher in some of her more intransigently tactless moods. There is speculation that it was advice from the Palace which widened the celebration of the Downing Street anniversary from a dinner to which Mrs Thatcher and her Cabinet invited Elizabeth, an occasion with strictly party political overtones, to one to which all party leaders and descendants of former Prime Ministers were invited. Another occasion was the Cenotaph ceremony held on Armistice Sunday in Whitehall, at which the Queen and the leaders of the political parties lay wreaths. Mrs Thatcher originally refused to allow the newly formed SDP to take part. A leading member let it be known to the Palace the feelings of



The Oueen and Mrs Thatcher: newspapers accused the PM of ambulance-chasing and elbowing the Royal Family out of the limelight

his party at being thus excluded. Mrs Thatcher gave way.

Mrs Thatcher, however, could be obdurate on certain issues. Elizabeth would have liked to have visited the European Parliament in Strasbourg: her Prime Minister opposed the idea of giving royal countenance to that despised institution. Elizabeth did not go.

Mrs Thatcher's major innovation in British politics has been the fearless determination with which she set about attacking the sacred cows and ancient institutions of Britain. Doctors, lawyers, the universities, the trade unions, the nationalised industries, the BBC and the National Health Service -none of them escaped her reforming zeal and her determination to cut costs, reduce public spending and get value for money for the taxpayer. It was only a matter of before the same spotlight would be turned on the monarchy.

The free market economy, which Mrs Thatcher so cherished, ushered in a free-for-all in communica-tions in which she permitted a

dominant share to be taken by her favourite press tycoon, the republican Rupert Murdoch. It is ironical that this most "loyal" of the Queen's Prime Ministers, whose attitude towards the monarchy was the most reverential, should have set in train a revolution in British life would touch the Queen herself in the next decade.

Elizabeth's favourite Prime Minister

Churchill refuses a dukedom Reserve now! The Queen's Official

foundly so grateful".

This was not mere polite-

ness: she meant it. Asked once which of her Prime Ministers did she enjoy audiences with most, she said: "Winston, of

course, because it was always

such fun." But when asked

whether it had been like Lord

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MDM

The Crown Collections Limited P.O. Box 229, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 0AY CHURCHILL was Elizabeth's favourite Prime Minister. Queen — a dukedom, just as his famous ancestor, John Churchill, had been made When he retired in 1955, she sent a handwritten letter tell-Duke of Marlborough for his ing him how much she missed services to the nation. The him and how neither his Palace reply was that no more successor. Anthony Eden, nor dukedoms were ever going to any other successor, "wili ever, for me, be able to hold be conferred, except on royal personages. As Colville wrote: the place of my first Prime However, it did seem appro-Minister, to whom both my husband and I owe so much priate. Could I give the undertaking that the Prime Minister and for whose wise guidance during the early years of my reign I shall always be pro-

would refuse it?"
When Colville took soundings with Churchill, he found him adamantly opposed to it he wished to die in the House of Commons as Winston Churchill. "I rushed to the telephone." Colville recalled, "and rang up Sir Michael Adelne and said that he could safely tell the Queen the dukedom could be offered." On the day, however,

Colville had misgivings:

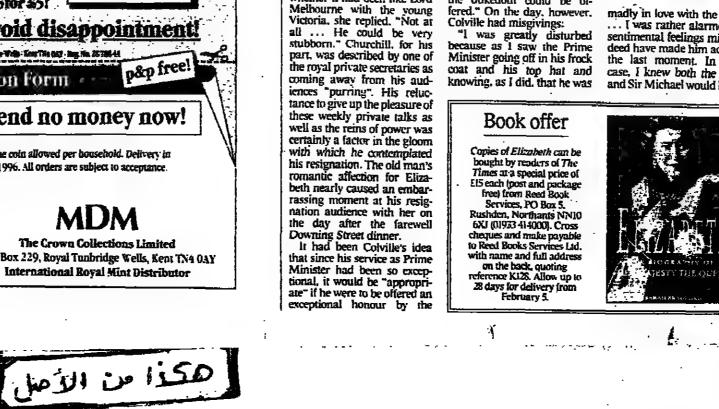
Churchill joins the Royal Family for VE-Day in 1945 madly in love with the Queen ... I was rather alarmed that angry with me for having

sentimental feelings might indeed have made him accept at the last moment. In which case, I knew both the Queen and Sir Michael would be very

given this pledge.
"When he returned from his

audience, the first thing I said to him as we sat in the Cabinet room was 'How did it go?' With tears in his eyes he said, 'Do you know, the most remarkable thing happenend — she offered to make me a duke.

"With trepidation I asked what he had said. "Well, you know, I very nearly accepted. I was so moved by her beauty and charm and the kindness with which she made this offer; that for a moment i thought of accepting. But fi-nally I remembered that I must die as I have always been - Winston Churchill, And so I asked her to forgive my not accepting it. And do you know, it's an odd thing, but she seemed almost relieved."



Love at the Golden Lemon

n the pleasurably frantic prelude to a wedding, it is hard to imagine life after the big day. So all-consuming are the preparations for the biggest event in your life that the idea of a "bound" — a world in which "beyond" — a world in which invitations will not have to be printed, cars procured or floral arrangements selected — seems faintly ridiculous.

When Katherine, my then fiancee, and I first discussed where to go on honeymoon, it. was to memories of holidays gone by that we first turned for inspiration: she to the gilded romance of Venice; I to the sassy, promenading, authentic jazz and earth-shattering cocktails of New Orleans.

In the end, a second sense prevailed and we those the islands of the Caribbean for our first fortnight of wedded life. Obvious, perhaps. But there is no better moment to indulge in the obvious than the day after one's wedding, And what we wanted was a Rolls-Royce to pick us up from the airport, take us to a sunbleached beach by a perfect blue ocean, with a ready supply of champagne and fine food, and leave us there for two weeks. This is exactly what happened.

Though Barbados - our first port of call -- is what most Europeans mean by "Caribbean", it is in fact an Atlantic island, a tiny coral playground about 100 miles beyond St Lucia, St Vincent and the other Lesser Antilles. This is a small place where not very much happens. The lead item on the news while we were there was the auxiety of teenagers facing the common entrance exam a story unlikely to make the Reuters wire. But that is the essence of the Barbadan (or Bajan) charm: a serious commitment to affable relaxation.

dukeden



The sleepy streets of St Kitts lead to black volcanic beach

The locals, we discovered, are more likely to compliment you on your luggage than to talk

As a token gesture to active holidaying, we spent an after-noon on the Atlantis subma-rine, which leaves several times a day from the quayside at Bridgetown and dives 130ft to the reef on the west coast of the island, rich in exotic marine life. Should you wish to, you can spend a frenzied week snorkelling, scuba diving, wind-sailing, fishing and golf-ing. There is plenty to be done by those who insist on bringing the spirit of the workplace with them on holiday; but Barbados is not really their natural perish.

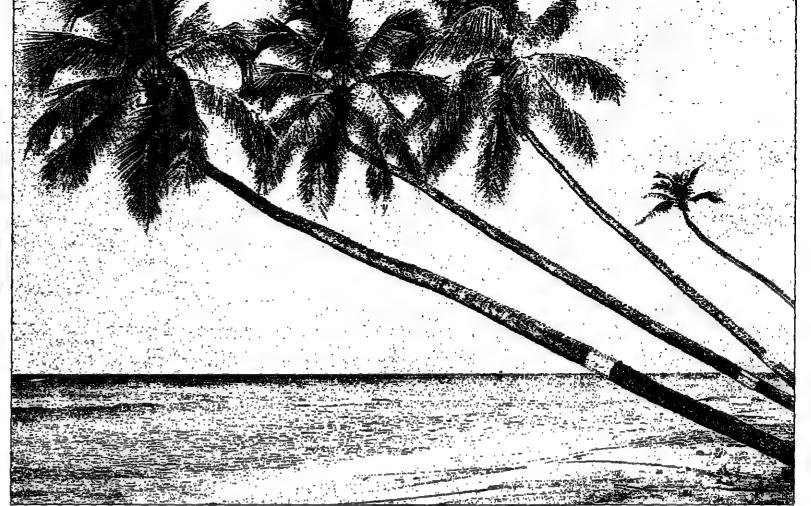
In truth, this is the home of those who understand how important it is to stay in a hotel where a fresh rum punch can be delivered to your spot on the beach by planting a flag in the sand. One such is the Sandy Lane, one of the few truly world-famous hotels, which offers a form of luxury that is as welcome at the start



predictable in nature. The spirit of the place, modern and if-indulgent, owes more to Winner than Noël Coward. But that is just fine when one is looking for uncomplex relaxation, a place to acquire the beginnings of a tan and least on first-rate Bajan cuisine (try the barra-cuda, flying-fish or rich pep-pery stews on offer on the island, and have any Weter lunch at the legendary Waterfront Calé in Bridgetown).

A short drive from the

Sandy Lane at St Peter is the more intimate Cobblers Cove. run by Hamish Watson, who



greets all his guests with a rum "welcoming drink" of

Camelot Suite, which, with its OWIL FOOT TETTACE and pool overlooking the ocean, is said by many to be the finest accommodation in the Caribbean. This is not a judgment with which we would quarrel. Looking out across a sea awash with the tangerine rays of a Caribbean sunset is an experience I shall

After the cosy modernity of there are a pleasing contrast to

Barbados, one wants to see the the white sand of Barbados slightly wilder side of the islands. We flew in a tiny plane to the sister islands of St Kitts-Nevis, staying first at the Golden Lemon and then at Nisbel Plantation. Everything is different there. The passport officials are more sceptical, the roads rockier, the landscape

more rough-newn.
The night we arrived on St Kitts was payday for the workers from the sugar-cane plantations and all was a frenzy of merriment on the streets of the island. The black volcanic beaches

and the swimming is just as good. I was struck by how fine the dining was in the hotels we stayed at. But the Golden Lemon takes the palme d'or for a golden honeymoon, a wonderful stockade of chalets individually designed and dec-orated, most with a large

Coral playground: visitors can relax on sun-bleached beaches beside a perfect blue ocean, but there are plenty of watersports for the more active

plunge-pool of their own.

Looking out across the reef
in the cooling heat of the late afternoon, I realised it would soon be time to go home. But to be there, newly married, still far from London and near only to my new wife - this

Caribbean fact file

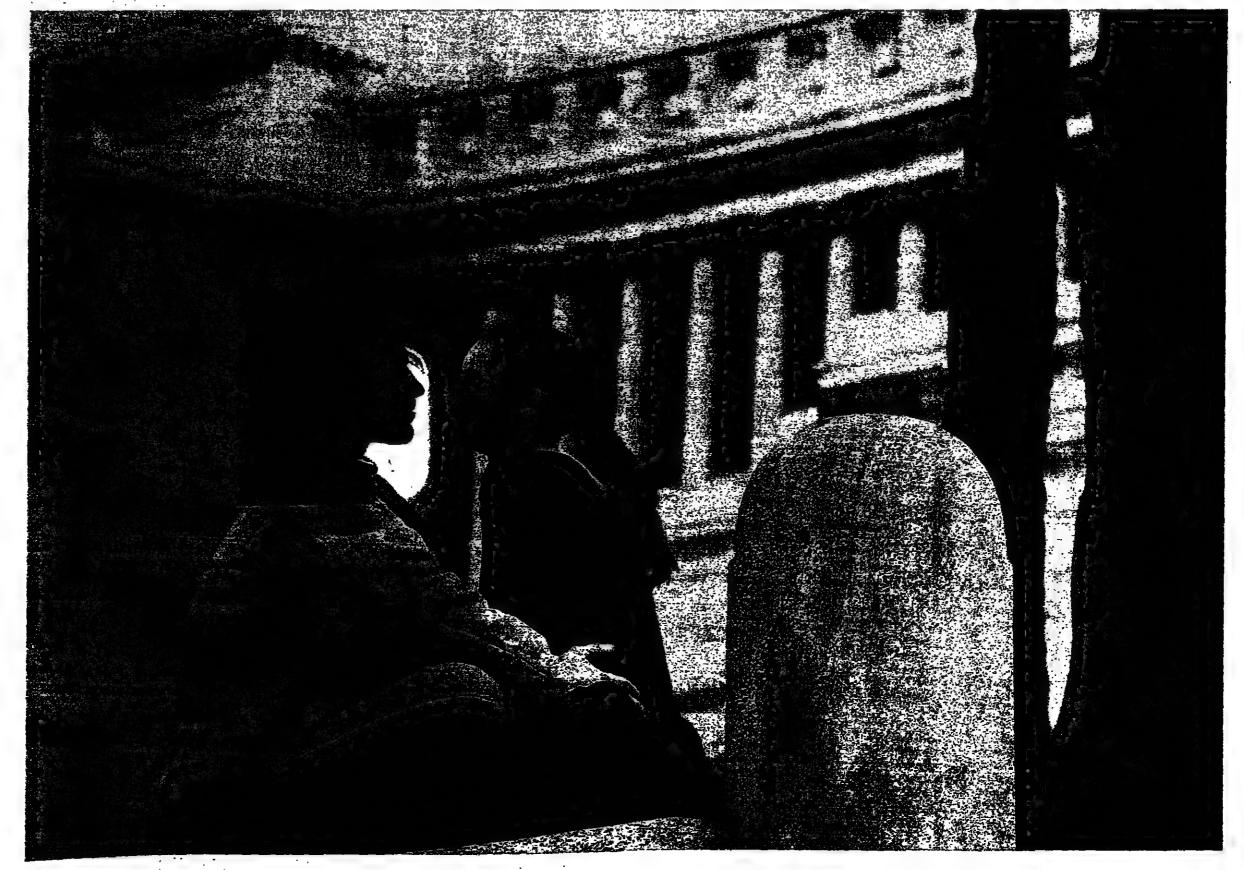
☐ The author was a guest of Elegant Resorts.

☐ Seven nights at Sandy Lane from £1,315 per person, including breakfast, return flights to Barbados and private car transfers. Seven nights at Cobblers Cove from £960 per person (no meals), flights included.

☐ A seven-night stay on St Kitts and Nevis, spending three nights at the Golden Lemon (including breakfast) and four nights at Nisbet Plantation (half board) from £1,295 per person, including return flights to Antigua. inter-island flights and private car transfers.

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TURKEY: Christine Wheeler revels in the simple pleasures of a hillside haven before the summer rush ...

Sanctuary under the mimosa trees

the hillside at Ocakkoy, as the evening sun mellowed the vivid spring green of the plain below and melted the remaining hilltop snow. The only sounds were the irritated braying of a donkey and goats' bells plotting their homeward path to the whistled commands of their female minder, who was draped and covered in the Muslim way. A muezzin called villagers to prayer.

Ocakkoy, a once deserted Turkish settlement, has been restored as a holiday village but not manicured into an anonymous Euro-resort. Each cottage was almost hidden among geraniums, daisies and wild flowers, waist-high either side of the paths down the hillside to the restaurant. bar and pool. Acid yellow mimosa trees vibrated with

the industry of bees. The solar-powered cottages are basically furnished with subsistence-Habitat: plain pine and unbleached calico.





wall-hangings. The rural idyll when the haughty cockerels. who patrol the paths with vigour, led their harem of hens to the verandas at daybreak for an alarm call. Tortoises, trundling in from the surrounding pine forest, sank down to sunbathe.

Ithough the cottages

are not air-conditioned, to retreat to Ocakkoy must be a relief in high summer when the nearby coastal resort of Olu Deniz seethes in heat that could stun a northern European into complete inertia. But, in late April, the thermometer showed mid-70s and bliss — there were virtually no other visitors. A brief window of opportunity, before the season's start-gun goes off in May, for those of us whose mantra is: I am a traveller.

you are a tourist, they pollute

the area with beer cans and

their very presence. A stroll along an almost deserted beach to the Blue Lagoon.

There are two specialised botamy tours, for up to 15 people, based at Ocakkoy: two weeks starting April 7 for £785 per person half board; one week starting May 5 for £650 per person half board, both led by expert English botanists. There are two specialised archaeology tours for up to 15 people; two weeks starting April 14; two weeks starting September 22. £845 per person half-board and led by an expert from the Bodrum Museum. All prices include return flights to Dolaman.

Turkey fact file

□ The author was a guest of Simply Turkey, Chiswick Gale, 598-608 Chiswick High Road, London W4 5RT (0181-747 1011; fax

Ocakkoy is closed in February and March for upgrading of cottages. Two weeks for two sharing one of the 25 cottages in April costs £474, self-catering. High season £597, self-catering. Breakfast about £5 per head; dinner about £7-£8 per head in the

where trees barely stirred and waves could hardly be both-ered to flop on to the sand, took us past rows of empty parking spaces, snack bars and toll booths, silently awaiting the crowded chaos of Driving down the hillside in the village minibus brings you to Fethiye, a small port where

café owners were sprucing up their windowboxes in readiness for the rush. Pottery and carpet shops were open. were offered unlimited supolies of apple tea but never The package-tour caravan.

moving relentlessly east, is but the latest in a long line of invasions and outside influ-

3001

ences, and will re-shape the Turkish landscape and attitudes as surely as those of the sentinel over the countryside, with carved Lycian tombs, some dating from the 5th century BC, common around Fethiye. Set high into sheer cliffs, as tall and wide as a small house, they seem inaccessible, but most were plundered soon after being sealed and

sometimes graffiti-scarred. Among the larger archaeo-logical sites within driving distance of Ocakkoy is Pinara with its Lycian tombs, Greek temples and amphitheatre. Another, Kaunos, is close by a

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your pleasure seriously talk to Savile.

Only the gentle tinkling of goats' bells disturbs the peace at Ocakkoy, where each cottage is hidden among the flowers

head turtles hatch, and is Dalyan, past biblical reed beds and basking terrapins:

We climbed to the hilltop sites and traced Turkey's history from the ruins of these once important cities long ago destroyed by disease, war and earthquakes. The ruins are not completely excavated and still free from the intrusive 20th century trappings of tourism.

Driving past farming ham-lets where spring planting is

still done by hand, seedling by back-breaking seedling, we stopped at makeshift roadside cales manned by free-enter-prise villagers, and lounged like Istanbul pashas on cushions under awnings of vines, pomegranate, fig or walnut trees: welcome shade after walking through fields of popand forget-me-nots soon to be

sunbaked to a uniform brown. And the Turkey I saw was never obscured by an oppres-sive heat haze or crocodiles of



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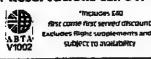


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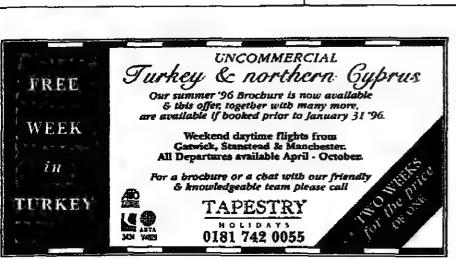
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Moghuls&Maharajahs

Carting in January we shall be intaugurating a new flight series directivum.LondonGaberckitoAgrafor the Tai Mairal and in the process ng the tedium of travelling to and from Delhi and permitting the traveller to see that which he has come to see and able to relax and explore other parts of Rajasthanatan easy pace and when the weather is at

Our arrangement includes the international flight to and from Agra. isids to the Taj Mahal and Red Fort, 4-star Agra Clarks Shinaz-hotel or alternatively at the 5-star Mughal autreatively at the 3-star Program
Sheriation at a small supplement,
variety of optional visits to Jappur,
Patchpur Silori, Silandro, Bharatpur
and Delhi are available, Alternatively the gardens and facilities of your

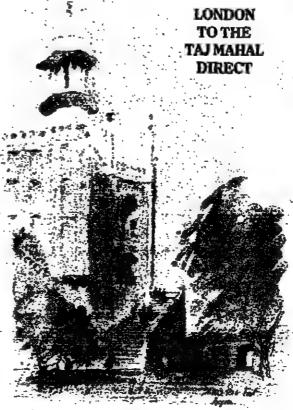
See the Taj Mahal set in formal gardens on the River Jumua, which was begun in 1630 by the Emperor Stuh Jahan for his favourite wife Sman Jahan for his favourite wife. Munntaz Mahal. The building is of white marble and has pietra-dura inhan... Later continue to the Red Fort, a complete Moghul city in itself, built by Maturander Closel by turnesed red ewalls See the many count state of morres where Shahi Jahan was imprisoned for the last seven years of his life by his son Aurangeeb and where he died looking at the Taj Mahal.

Hotel Chries Shires The 4-star Clarks Shiraz hotel is situated in the centre of Agra one laiometre away from the Taj Mahai. restaurants, shops, a nace garden and swimming pool. All rooms have en-suite facilities, air-conditioning and

Hotel Mughal Sheraton The luminous 5-star Monthal cration is located in the centre of Agra, and just one fallometre away room the Taj Mahad itself. The hote ties, air-conditioning, television, a manber of restaurants, bars, a swimming pool, shops, landscaped gar-

Optional Excursions Please ensure encursions are

Visit Emperor Aldrar's Mauso-mat Shandra, agreet tiered building built in 1613 set in a Moghul Itmad-Ud-Dautah built by the Empress Noosychaan in memory of her father. The tomb, besides being the torerunner of the Tay Mahai itself is



7 nights from £465.00 with optional visits to Sikandra, Fatehpur Sikri, Bharatpur, Jaipur and Delhi



energy is provided nature. A half day tourbycoach_£18.00 perperson: Fatehpur Sikri

The city was created entirely of red sandstone by the Emperor Aldrarin 1569 as his capital but was deserted 16 years laterasthewells randry. See the Divan-I-Amand Diwan-I-Khaswhere religious ace that Akhar built for his son. Prince Salim, and the Jameni Masjid, the impe-

rial mosque built in 1571 to commer

Chishi, a Sufi who was held in high respective Alabarand lahangir. Afull-day tour by motor coach including lanche £24.00 perperson Bharatour

The Chan National Park at Bharatpur is India's renowned waterbird sanc-tuary where a great variety of birds can be seen especially during the winter. Afull-day tour by motor coach includ-ing lunch: £29,00 per person.

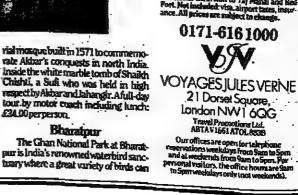
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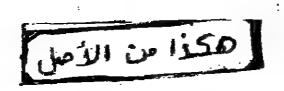
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Old and New Delbi Travel by motor coach to Delhi and see the main sights of Shah Ja-han's old city and Sir Edwin Lutyens' beautiful New Delhi. An overnight tour by coach staying at the Hotel Qutablorshullar on half-board bank £79.00 per person.

Travel to Jaipur for a two-night stay at Jaipur Spirit of Rajputra. See the Amber Fort, Lake Maota, the Palace of the Winds, the Observatory built by Jai Singh, and the citypalace, a deligniful blend of Moghul and traditional architecture the one tenth of the total area of the wa city. A two-night tour including lunches 639.00 perperson.

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repo, 13,20,27
Feb6, 13, 20, 27
Apr 2 £520 Apr 9, 16, 23, 30 £465
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May 7. 14.21,28
Jun 4, 11, 18, 25
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ethe summer

Adrift on the sea of sighs

n board gulets, it is not just honeymoon couples who go to bed at 9.30pm. You wake at sunrise, as light and the sounds of the sea come through your portholes, and take the first swim of the day.

in deep, clear sea, before

breakfast at 7.30am. Twelve hours later you will be dining on deck wondering how soon you can decently give in to exhaustion and retire to your cabin. The honeymooners, in fact, showed more resistance to going to bed than the rest, perhaps because the captain seemed to have taken advantage of the empty cabin next to them. On a gulet you can hear your neighbour's

For first-time gulet cruisers, a three-night trip is thorough-ly recommended. It is short enough to allay any anxiety about cabin fever and long enough to appreciate the plea-

begin their journey anxious to know which ports, harbours or beaches they will visit but often become so attached to their vessel that they prefer to stay on board rather than go ashore or inland.

On this trip, the balance of time on board and off was perfect. On the first day, a twohour journey, with lunch on board on the way, from Kalkan on the southwestern, Mediterranean coast of Turkey, further south to Kas with time to explore the town and its carpet and jewellery shops, before setting off again at five o'clock to moor for the night in a bay just beyond, with a swim

Another two hours cruising the next day, with mountains as your backdrop at breakfast, past Kekova island with its sunken Byzantine city to Cayagazi, and onwards by minibus to Demre and the church of St Nicholas (aka Santa Claus) and to Myra, where St Nicholas died and where you can visit a Roman Lycian rock tombs. After swimming, and lunch on the boat, back up the coast to visit Kale, where huge Lycian sar-cophagi rise out of the harbour and cluster on a plain below the castle, and rock tombs

nestle next to village houses.

Then on the third day, waking in a bay just beyond Kale, you travel back up the coast with no shore stops but two blissful anchorages, one in deep, clear water between coast and islets and the other in a bay just beyond Kalkan. both with plenty for snor-kellers to enjoy. On the morning of the last day, it is just half an hour's journey back to the harbour of Kalkan.



After supper in the Turkish village of Kalkan, take a stroll through narrow streets thronged with shops and have a nightcap overlooking the bay

boasts flush lavatories as well

as air-conditioned cabins. The

plus points are many: conge-

nial company, guaranteed re-

laxation, comfort (wood-lined

cabins with marvellous plat-

form beds and ensuite shower

room and lavatory), swim-

ming and snorkelling several

times a day and the chance to

pick out future holiday

Kalkan, a busy, but not too

Kale is the place to take a

minished, the days are still hot

holidays

0181 766 0100

Travellers'

G Each time I have been on holiday with Bales I have always had a great time, culminating in my first trip to

Jordan, when I had

MRS P. SMART, FIFE.

a ball. 99

We may have been lucky with our companionable fellow travellers but gulet regulars say that they have rarely known a disastrously unsuccessful mix on board.

The cautious could always pack a few cab-Sixteen people and three crew (captain, deckhand and cook) on board an 88ft boat is not as crowded as it might seem, and the shared breakfast/junch/dinner table was a pleasure each day.

Food on board was excellent light breakfasts, and lunches and suppers of pasta, rice or cracked wheat dishes with wonderful vegetables, salads and fresh fruit. After hunch "sunbathing", a cuphemism for the afternoon nan. on sunloungers or sprawling cushions is a prelude to after-noon (Turkish) tea. So relaxed is life on this cruise that smart travellers arrive with only a small bag of essentials :-

☐ The authors travelled as guests of Savile Row Tours & Travel. A threenight gulet "mini-cruise", from Thursdays to Sundays, departs weekly from

Kalkan from May 2 to October 24. It is designed to be added on to holidays in Kalkan, Kas or Kale. Flights are from hour drive from Kalkan. ☐ Price: a three-night cruise, inclusive

wine and soft drinks, in an air-

swimsuits, T-shirts, shorts,

beach towel, toiletries. Shoes,

needed only for trips ashore,

are left in a basket on the aft

Drawbacks seemed few: the

lack of soundproofing, a sur-

prising attack by vicious mos-

quitoes and, on the boat on

which we travelled last year, pump-action lavatories that

were not for the nervous. This

year the cruises will be aboard

Kalkan fact file

conditioned double cabin costs £175 per person in May and October, rising to sharing a cabin with two adults, costs £60 in May/October, £90 in in these prices. In May, June and October single occupancy of a cabin (they are all doubles) is half price and under-los can have their own cabin at

half price if accompanied by two adults. A week at the Patara Prince Hotel at Kalkan, including flight, transfer, room and breakfast, starts from £399. Savile also offers pansiyon or self-catering accommodation in Kalkan, Kas and Kale. A self-catering week in a restored Greek cottage at Kalkan, with two sharing, starts from £379.

☐ Savile Row Tours & Travel. Savile House, 6 Blenheim Terrace, St John's Wood, London NW8 0EB (0171-625 300i, fax: 0171-625 8852).

Lazy days, empty bays

itting in the sun on a balcony overlooking an empty bay, watching a solitary boat cruise slowly into the tiny harbour of Kalkan, I realised why Turkey was the country which experienced the biggesi increase in British

tourists last year.

This idyllic part of Turkey's
Lycian coast was the most beautiful, unspoilt bit of the Mediterranean I had found in more than 30 years of travels in France, Spain, Italy and the bigger Greek islands.

Taurus mountains and, set at the heart of the bay, the still tiny village of Kalkan — 200

houses, with nar row, cobbled taurants on the sea front and surmunded by sloping, wooded

The view from the balcony was for those five-star Patara Prince Hotel. who want part of the Club Patara complex a peaceful situated on the hillside holiday

that can be rentundoubtedly look better when it has aged and weathered and become part of the scenery.

The club, built six years ago,

is modelled on a Roman town and includes a replica of the Roman triumphal arch that stands in nearby Patara, with a marble-floored Agora built round a fountain just inside the main entrance. Once within, however, the

experience is as if one were living in one of the villages perched in the Alps behind Nice, especially as you walk down through the terraces and the gardens of bougainvilles to swim or sunbathe from platforms by the sea.

Club Patara is its own

pools, a sea sports and diving and sauna. All the rooms are air-conditioned, with balconies offering spectacular views

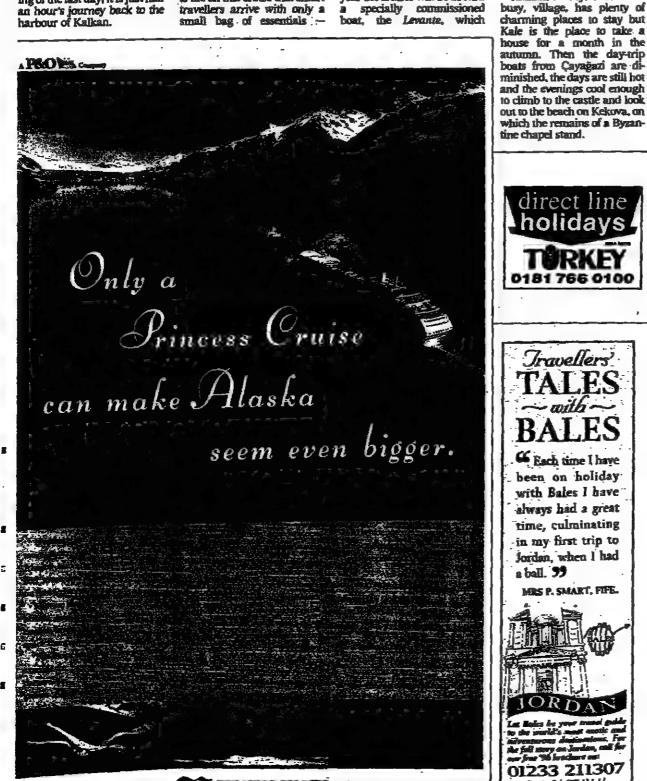
the over-development elsewhere in Turkey - even though a big new road from the airport is coming ever closer - by its derisory pebbeaches within a 15-minute drive at Kapitas and especially Patara, which offers more

> than ten miles of beach in a lush, At Kalkan, however, you can swim only from the rocks or at Lykia beach, a Prince Hotel, It is unlikely to ge any big touris

So this is a holiday, staying tages or the Patara complex.

visiting the ancient sights including Kekova and the nearby sunken city, the ruins of Xanthos, the stunning canyon at Saklikent. the rock tombs of Myra, the hill caves of Pinara, the sea caves of Lycia or the ghost

The day at Kalkan ends with an alfresco meal at one of the string of restaurants along the harbour, ail amazingly cheap by English standards, and afterwards a stroll through narrow streets and alleyways thronged with shops, and a nightcap overlooking the bay. Peace, perfect peace.



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TRAVEL

AMERICA: Leave the children behind — at Disney World you can drink, get married or have a wild time

Magic kingdom where adults can go goofy

alt Disney World without the kids?
Surely the whole point of the 27,000-acre theme park resort Florida is all about giving the children a good time with Mickey Mouse and friends? Leaving them behind seems something that only Cruella de Vil would do, and perhaps even she wouldn't be so cold-

But apparently visiting the world's most popular tourist attraction — it pulls in about 30 million visitors a year, with approaching one million from Britain alone — is something that many people prefer to do without children. Four out of every ten adult visitors, according to Disney statistics, go without their offspring.

Adults on their own discover that there is more to the resort than just theme parks. Last 12,000 people joined in the annual Disney full-length marathon; later this month Disney is hosting its first Indy car race on a specially built

Disney World is also becoming the place for Americans to wed, and at least one British there. And as a honeymoon destination, Disney World has overtaken the Caribbean and

But the clearest sign yet that Disney is not just for kids comes from the new Disney Institute opening shortly. This resort-within-a-resort offers educational everything from - in a college-style campus with its own cinema. sports complex, bungalows and townhouses. Children under ten are not encouraged. while those up to age 17 are



Getting there

staying at the Dixie Landings Resort hotel. Prices, including return airfares, for seven nights for two adults sharing a room with a five-day starts at £759 per person with Virgin Holidays (01293 617181). Or £815 per rson with Bridge Travel Group (01992 456101) ses at the person (01293 723111). ☐ A free Disney World video is available from 0990

offered only a limited range of programmes to join in But what does the resort offer for lot actually. The place is huge Manchester. Apart from the three major theme parks, there are also three waterparks, a nature reserve. five championship golf courses (plus a practice course), 20 on-site hotels, every type of water sport, fishing. cinema and the world's largest

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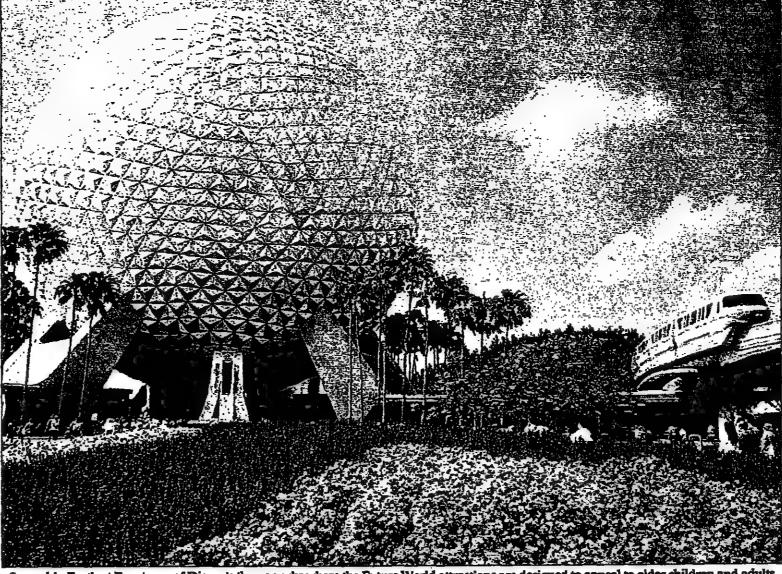
Planet Hollywood restaurant. Most people's perception of Disney World is based on the Magic Kingdom, the original theme park which was built 25 years ago (Disney World celebrates its silver jubilee in October), and dominated by

with the Magic Kingdom if you are an adult on your own: there are too many children around and it is the only theme park that does not serve alcoholic drinks. Contrary to popular opinion, Disney is not dry: drink is served throughout Disney World apart from the Magic Kingdom. In fact Disney annually hosts a pres-tigious wine festival of American-produced wines.

go to the Magic Kingdom, many of the attractions are tame for adults, and the queues -- especially for the rides in Fantasyland, which you can miss out entirely can be horrendous. Make a quick tour of the park to capture the flavour of the quintessential Disney experience but head for Space Mountain, still regarded as the top ride.

the ride is slow (just 28mph) twists, turns and loops that experience. (The Disneyland Paris version, for example, sends you upside down three times.) But what sets Orlando's Space Mountain apart in the folklore of rollercoasters is the fact that not only does it operate in almost total darkness, but Disney's skill in building up the tension to what, in daylight, would be a very tame ride indeed.

The only other rollercoaster in Disney World is Big Thunder Mountain. Ride it at night when the evening parade is on and try to get in the last third



ence is more thrilling. The other ride not to be missed is Splash Mountain, although you have to endure a lot of audio animatronic rabbits and bears singing "Zip-a-dee-doodah" before you get to the 52ft drop at 40mph down a water

ic Kingdom by mid-afternoon, catch a small ferry across to the Grand Floridian Hotel and head for the bar at Narcoossee's, where you can sit in peace overlooking the man-made Seven Seas Lagoon with a quiet beer.

Alternatively, and especially at night, try the bar at the new Grill restaurant London's Caprice) on top of

the hideous looking Contemporary Resort Hotel. The view stretches across the Magic Kingdom and is a great place to watch the nightly fireworks. The other two major theme parks — Epcot and the Disney/MGM Studios - pose

no problems for adults since they are aimed to appeal to older children and adults alike. Epcot is in two halves: Future World, which has a series of pavilions depicting technological progress, al-though the problem is that the pace of change is so fast that they soon become dated. The Universe of Energy, for examgy as the great panacea for economic growth although. thankfully, the attraction is

being revised this year the gung-ho promotion of a nuclear world toned down. If you want a laugh, watch the Making of Me film in the Wonders of Life pavilion to see how Disney manages to avoid

any meaningful attempts at sex education. The second half of Epcot is World Showcase, 11 national pavilions in a sort of mini-world's fair located around a lagoon. Best places for a relaxing drink: try a frozen Margarita overlooking from-home pint of beer (Bass) at the Rose & Crown pub in the

imitation United Kingdom.

he Disney/MGM Studios show how movies are made and what it is like to be in them. A very adult park with revernped Twilight Zone Tower of Terror which drops you down a 13-storey lift shaft,

Night-time fun for adults at Disney World centres on Pleasure Island, an evening entertainment complex with seven clubs - ranging from a comedy club to a Stringfellowsstyle disco - and several restaurants. Children are allowed into most of the clubs but you have to prove that you are over 21 to get a drink. (Carry your passport with you. even if you know you won't see the right side of 30 again.)

age the raunchy and sophisticated catering that such a complex needs, Disney is this year importing outside restaurants to liven the place up, including celebrity eateries established by such stars as Gloria Estefan, Dan Aykroyd and Jim Belushi.

culture does not easily encour-

The existing ten-screen cine ma complex is being expanded with an additional 14 screens, ianned. Also opening this summer is a second entertainment complex called Disney's BoardWalk, close to Epcot, which is seeking to recreate the American amusement parks of the 1930s and 1940s, such as the one at Cones Island, New York.

The Disney experience is not to everyone's taste, and the absence of children with you forces an evaluation of just what else the resort has to offer. Disney is committed to broadening its appeal to all ages, believing that the future trend in holidays is towards a more controlled and secure environment where the thrills are carefully rationed and every aspect of the experience can be defined.

Not surprisingly, the next World is the Wild Animal Kingdom in 1998. Among the many attractions it will offer is an African safari but with audio animatronic animals rather than the real thin with only just over a third of Disney World's available land developed so far, there is a lot more to come.

We think about

DAVID CHURCHILL

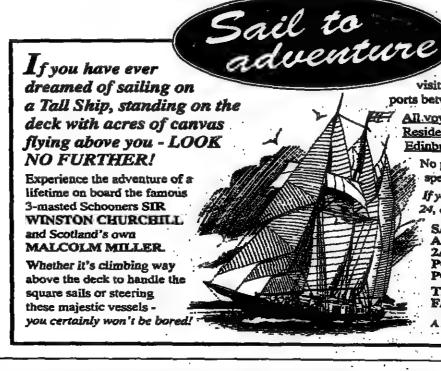
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DAY 3 Scenic drive to Trosa visiting the famous Reijmyre glass factory on the way. Explore the lovely 18th century palace at Tuligarn with its beautiful gardens. Stay 2 nights at the Romantik Hotel in the square at Trosa. DAY 4 Emberk the Swedish Islander and cruise through the Archipelago stopping for nature-trail walks (wildflowers, birdwatching) and a barbecue lunch.

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Sattsjodaden.

DAY 6 Sall to Bullero Island purchased by the painter Bruno Lifefors for the purpose of studying the birdlife. Explore the island and the museum and sail on to Moja a large island leal for walking and cycling. See the church,

bakery and smokehouse. DAY 7 Glorious Stockholm is on the horizon this morning. After lunch sail to Mariefred on Lake Malaren. Visit Gripsholm Palace, perhaps bicycle through the Royal Deer Park, horsebaci riding or a round of golf. Stay overnight at

Gripshokms Vardhus, Sw dating back to 1609. DAY & Stockholm - London with SAS. tively, stay on for a few days in Stockholm

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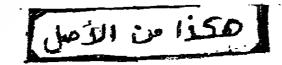
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TRAVEL

POLAND: Rural tranquillity and urban grandeur in a region possessed by the memories of modern history

Ghosts of war and peace

nly after I returned from northeast Poland did I realise what had so haffled, even troubled, me. It was this: how could a landscape which has been a crucible of almost constant turbulence in our century still appear to be frozen in another, more timeless and tranquil, age? It is a paradox that recurs wherever one turns in this absorbing country.

In Poland, as the historian Simon Schama says, frontiers have marched back and forth to the command of history. Nowhere is this more so than in the north east, on which soil — at various times Lithuanian, German and Russian as well as Polish — so much modern history has been enacted. Here Russian military disaster at Tannenberg in 1914 helped to provoke revolution; here 30 years later in the Wolfschanze, or Wolfs Lair, Hitler came face to face with defeat; here, in the shipyards of Gdansk, the seeds were sown for the dissolution of the Sovlet empire.

And yet on an early summer's day, these same fields of former east Prussia showed a scene unchanged and pastoral: a horse pulling the plough, a peasant farmer and his wife working shoulder to shoulder in the field and, near by, their cottage, its interior dark and low but welcoming around the wood-burning tile stove in the kitchen.

I had gone to northern Poland at the invitation of an old friend, a former colleague turned innkeeper in the lake region of Kashubia. It seemed an improbable destiny for a journalistic veteran of the conflicts in Beirut and El Salvador but, at ease among the neighbouring farmers, exchanging jokes in Polish—a language in which the consonants tumble into one another in impenetrable confusion—he was desalt as home.

clearly at home.

The village in which we were staying lay half an hour's drive west of Gdansk. This Hanseatic gem, formerly Danzig, saw the opening shots of the Second World War — a German battleship opening fire on the city some hours before Hiller's army invaded. Nevertheless, the city weathered the war passably well until 1945, when

Water Street

Medical States

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it was utterly destroyed in the Russian advance.

Adam Koperkiewicz, head of the local history museum, is justifiably proud of the work that has restored Gdansk to something approaching its former glory. Now that the Dutch-style façades along the lovely Market Square have been rebuilt, and the ghosts of Nazi and Soviet oppression banished, he and other influential local citizens are looking to Gdansk's millennium celebrations in 1997 as an opportunity to prove that the city can recapture the spirit of cosmopolitan culture and ethnic tolerance it once

enjoyed at the heart of the Hanseatic League.
Artus Court epitomises old Danzig. One of the most handsome of the baroque l6th-century structures in Market Square, it was the forum of local merchants and civic leaders and was named in honour of the ideal of communal living represented by Arthurian legend. The large and magnificent

tile stove in the corner, only recently restored, is like a vast multi-layered wedding cake, composed of hundreds of portraits of local burghers: Christians, Jews and even Muslims. According to Dr Koperkiewicz, when a king of Poland once chided the Danzigers for being too susceptible to outside influences, they pointed to the stove as evidence of the strength of diversity.

Reminders of the turmoil of the past are never far away, however. A few minutes' walk from the street cafes of the old port and the stalls selling Baltic amber stands the shipyard monument to the memory of workers killed in the anti-communist riots of 1970. Ten years

later, the Solidarity union was formed and the Soviet empire was presented for the first time with an

immovable dissident force.

Today's visitor searches in vain for a whiff of those heady days. The shippard where workers confronted the communist state is barely in operation. Business at the Solidarity souvenir booth was so slack that the woman behind the counter became positively animated at the approach of potential customers, but all she had on show were a few old Solidarnosc badges. Even the spiritual home of the struggle, St Bridget's Church, where Lech

The road
to Hitler's

Walesa and other Solidarity activists sheltered and worshipped, had an abandoned air, being closed during the week.

A far more potent landscape lies about four hours' drive to the

bunker is landscape lies about four hours' drive to the east, in the lake region of Mazuria.

To reach Hitler's bunker at the Wolfschanze was been to him a cer.

and forests

you have to hire a car,
but the journey there is
repaid by an encounter
with perhaps the last
ke a vast
remaining architectural artefact
ke, comwith the troubling power to lay
traits of bare Nazi psychology.

Once again the paradoxes are haunting. The road to this monument to evil winds through achingly lovely country, the landscape of Schubert's Winterreise and Beethoven's Sixth Symphony, rye fields that sway in the breeze and forests of beech, oak and linden. Many of the lakes of Kashubia and Mazuria, great rents in the country-side left by glaciers, contain water pure enough for human consumption. At Malbork stands a medieval castle, built around 1270 by the Teutonic Knights, which retains a most and drawbridge.

Poland: how to get there, where to stay

☐ The author was a guest of Lot Polish Airlines (0171-580 5037), and Kania Lodge, Kartuzy (tel/fax: 00 48 9050274i). Lot flies direct from Heathrow to Gdansk on Saturdays in winter, with an additional flight on Monday from April: also daily to Warsaw. Off-peak return £215 to Gdansk.

I Kania Lodge, near Gdansk, offers rooms on the banks of a Kashubian lake, self-catering or with meals. £280 per week for a couple in a one-bed apartment in summer, £190 in winter. £415 for a two-bed apartment in summer. £270 in winter. Contact Kania Lodge, Skr. Pocet 5, 83-300 Kartuzy, Poland.

Amid this pastoral scene, as early as 1940 Hitler began building his headquarters for the eastern front. To maintain the secrecy of the project, thousands of slave-labourers employed in its construction were silenced. Their bodies, along with the countless dead of

Tannenberg, are enfolded in the soil of Mazuria.

Three days after invading Russia in June 1941, Hitler moved to the Wolfschanze and remained there almost constantly until late 1944. The lair then had the population of a small town, although covering only a few acres and concealed in thick forest near Kertzyn. The site is chillingly apt. As Schama has written in Landcape and Memory,

only a few acres and concealed in thick forest near Kertzyn. The site is chillingly apt. As Schama has written in Landcape and Memory, while in the Polish psyche forests have traditionally represented the struggle for national freedom, in Germany they embodied the militaristic spirit.

esides barracks, a com-

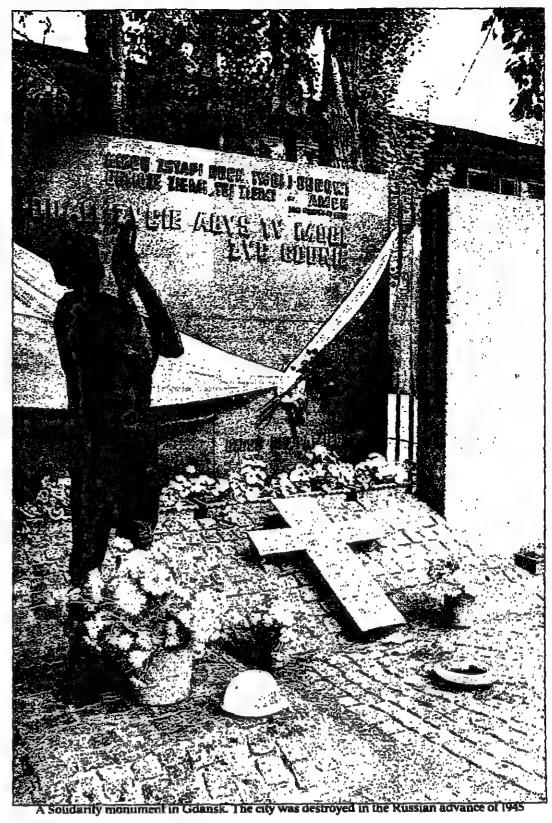
munication centre, a secretarial room and a cinema, the lair consists of the personal bunkers of senior Nazis: Göring, Jodi, Keitel and Hitler himself. Built on a pharaonic scale, these hideous monoliths testify to Nazi paranoia. Although never in fact attacked — Hitler was long gone by the time the Russians swept through — they were built to withstand Armageddon. Walls and ceilings were made of steel-reinforced concrete 30ft thick, and the captors' attempts to blast it into oblivion were a failure.

So, tragically, was the belated German opposition to Hitler. A plaque near the entrance to the complex marks the spot where a bomb left by Count Claus von Stauffenberg in a conference room exploded on July 20, 1944. Hitler's survival meant more lives were lost in the last year of war than had died in the previous five.

in the previous five.

In time, no doubt, this remote and disturbing site will be developed as a tourist attraction. At present, one emerges alone from the ruins into the sunlight, and gives thanks for the comparative blessings enjoyed by our own islands in this turbulent century.

STEPHEN TAYLOR



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TRAVEL

SKIING: Pick of the Alpine and American resorts ideal for intermediates, plus snowboarding technique



The Prince of Wales tries snowboarding at Klosters

All aboard for the new sensation

SNOWBOARDERS were appalled this week that instructors in the Swiss resort of Klosters put the Prince of Wales and Prince Harry on snowboards wearing ski

Most snowboarders wear soft boots and ride freestyle boards, which are rounded at both ends so that the rider can do 180º turns.

The whole body is used in executing the turns, so con-ventional ski clothing can be too constricting. Baggy-pants trousers, with waterproofed bottoms and knees. are more the snowboard fashion accessory

Devoted snowboarders urge beginners to start with freestyle boards and argue that the soft boots, which are like high hiking boots and are held on the board by straps, give them a better feel for the snow.

Some skiers who have switched to snowboarding prefer hard boots which are made of plastic, like ski boots, and clip into bindings on the board.

The Prince was on such a board but was handicapped by wearing ski boots which were too high, too stiff and designed for the skier to lean forwards.

At the age of 47, the Prince was a late starter but, by persevering he would have

tumbles, as most novices do. The snowboarding technique requires the weight to be put on the front foot while the back foot (the "feeling foot") steers the board into the turn. Within an hour, most people can turn in one direction.

can turn both ways. Snowboards cannot go as fast as skis and there is less to go wrong, so it can be argued that it is the safer of the two sports.

usually leaning into the

slope, and by the second day

SOME predict that in ten years snowboarders will son, virtually every leading British ski-tour operator brarders.

Crystal, which produces a dedicated brochure, estimates that up to 40,000 Britons will go on snowboarding holidays this winter, the average age of clients being 15 to 24.

With growing enthusiasm for the sport, about 8,000 snowboards have been sold this winter in Britain, against an estimated 16,000 pairs of skis.

GRAHAM DUFFILL

Pistes that pass the non-stop cruise test

The intermediate skier is that marketing man's mythical creature who inhabits the middle ground. Resorts go to ridiculous, and sometimes irresponsible lengths to redraw their piste maps, hoping to get the right mix of red intermediate pistes versus blue beginner or black expert runs.

What most intermediate skiers - quite confident about standing up and going straight but not too happy in bumps or narrow steeps — really like is non-stop cruising on pistes groomed to carpet-like smoothness. Indeed, there are few

more pleasant sensations.

Naturally enough, this kind of skiing quickly becomes tedious if repeated underneath the same chairlift. Nothing gives an intermediate a greater thrill than skiing overland with a destination in mind, be it to lunch or across the border

to another country.

France is the nation which has perfected this kind of skiing.

Les Arcs, La Plagne and, most spectacularly, the 600km arena of Les Trois Vallees are all skiing regions with residential sites at various altitudes, typically built right on the ski slopes, so that the ultimate convenience of skiing back to your door at the end of the day is generally possible.

In the development of the high-speed detachable chairlift carrying four to six marchs.

carrying four to six people, the intermediate skier has met his match. Seldom seen in Europe but ubiquitous in America. such lifts speed skiers so quickly up the slopes, with so little time to rest in queues or on the ride, that many holidaymakers

ime to rest in queues or on the rioe, that many holidaymakers of average fitness and skiing ability have found that, whereas they used to ski until the lifts closed fate in the afternoon, they are now done in by lunchtime.

Not every resort, despite its claims of red-graded piste, is good for intermediates. Verbier, Chamonix and St Anton all promise red runs over extensive terrain, but all include steep, icy and bumpy sections which irritate and endanger less experienced intermediates. Here is my selection of resorts which should be more enjoyable. which should be more enjoyable.

Doug Sager

BEST INTERMEDIATE RESORTS

AMERICA

Vail/Beaver Creek,

Although no American resorts are truly interlinked in the sense of the Trois Vallées in France, America's biggest re-sort, Vail, shares a liftpass with nearby Beaver Creek and the boutique ski area of Aruled for a connecting lift next

Beaver Creek has the best groomed pistes in the world. Almost ali Vail's extensive terrain is open to a European intermediate, because, believe it or not, the level of expertise in America is below that of even the average Briton. Vail's fabled "back bowls" too, though ungroomed off piste, are in large part easy enough

Lake Louise, Alberta Canada's largest resort caters mainly for weekending families, with an emphasis on wide-open runs where there is always a groomed alternative to bumps. Weekdays are blissfully uncrowded, and there is a ten-minute money back guarantee against queues, the like of which you will never see in the Alps. Guides escort skiers, free of charge, to the best groomed runs of the day.

Superski Dolomiti So large, and so little known by British skiers, the world's most extensive ski circus stretches from Merano, near the Swiss border, across the northern German-speaking part of Italy to the queen of the Aios, Cortina d'Ampezzo about 1,200km of pistes with more than 450 lifts and double the size of the Trois Vallees. Aside from the mainstream resorts, the Superski Dolomiti

Europe at £101 for six days. covers scores of charming hideaway family resorts and the glacier area of Val Senales with one of the longest skiing seasons and the highest mountain hotel in the Alps. But getting around requires a

areas in the Alps, but ideally intermediate and with its own uphill access to the Vallée Blanche. It has an off-piste itinerary over five glaciers and down about 20km into Chamonix which any average skier can accomplish, if accompanied by a certified mountain guide, and which any skier of any level will count as a magical experience. The resort is in the expert category when it comes to mountain restaurants.

L'Espace Killy: Val d'Isère/Tignes

Probably the best mix of

intermediate-to-expert terrain

in the Alps, and ideal for the

improving skier who wants to

be able to relax on long

cruising runs between tests.

The space named after Jean

Claude Killy is jam-packed with British skiers from

Intermediates used

grooming standards in Cour-

chevel will find L'Espace Killy

pistes considerably more au

naturel, and Tignes an inter-

esting rival in ugliness to Les

Menuires in the Trois Vallées.

But all members of the family

can ski together in Val/Tignes,

and in the process learn a lot

about what skiing is all about.

A loose collection of about a dozen villages along the Swiss-

French border, only just linked together in places by

bus and telecabine connec-

tions. This is, none the less, the

gateway to one of life's best

Avoriaz typifies the French

wood-over-concrete tower-

block construction in the mid-

dle of a snowfield, and nearby

Champery is an old-fashioned

single-street Swiss station so

low down you can never count

stays, the Portes offer innu-

merable excursions of discov-

piste twice, and almost all in

the easy to intermediate class.

intermediate adventures,

Portes du Solcil

Christmas to Easter.

FRANCE

Trois Vallées: Méribel,

Courchevel, Val Thorens The playground of the Alps with most British skiers, who adore the efficiency of its interlinked cable cars and chairlifts and who profess not to get bored on the endless acres of impeccably groomed irretrievably easy pistes.
Courchevel is devoid of cou-

loirs (steep, narrow descents) but its chalets are chic and in the village at 1.350m, which is the only place to stay for the cognoscenti, snow generally covers timbered roofs and lightly trafficked roadways all

Méribel is more downmarket but convenient for taking best advantage of the

The no-frills flats of Val Thorens, the highest "resort" in the Alps, function as the best-value venue for quick inand-out skiing - from chalet doorstep to piste-side to

SWITZERLAND

Klosters/Daws The Parsenn snowfields, open and rolling in easy downhill runs, were the first haunts of British skiers and remain ideal for above-the-tree line skiing on cruise control.

Weekend queues are the only challenge to unlimited intermediate skiing on pistes generally groomed to an adequate standard.

Although the lift system is showing its age, as elsewhere in Switzerland, the variety of runs down to outlying villages, past good mountain inns, will keep curious intermediates going up again and again without any sense of

One of Switzerland's best interconnected skiing regions, the Flims area is still chiefly a

Swiss secret. Waldhaux, the best place to stay, is an old-fashioned village with picture-postcard hotels, one of which is set in a huge park with underground tunnels connecting buildings constructed in widely different

Aside from scenic bands of cliffs, most of the terrain lacks serious steeps. And piste maintenance is better than at

on skiing home. Wherever one ery, never skiing the same

Ischel
A village of typical Tyrolean
charm, Ischel shows no signs

Ski tour operators for intermediates

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Ski Independence (0131-557 8555) for Vail in America and Lake Louise in Alberta, with flights to Denver by Martinair from Amsterdam.

Swiss Travel Service (01992 456123) has experience in Klosters/Davos as well as Flims/Laar, where few operators go, and offers automatic luggage transfer to all Swiss resorts, including Champery in the Portes du

☐ Ski Esprit (01252 616789) has the most comprehensive child-minding programme of any operator, with chalets in Courchevel and Morzine in the Partes du Soleil.

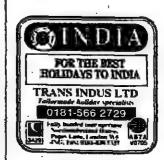
☐ Flexiski (0171-352 0044) is the expert operator for short breaks and corporate skiing in Courchevel. ☐ Bladon Lines (0181-780 8800) appears to be the best established and most experienced chalet and hotel operator in Courmayeur.

☐ Inghams (0181-780 4444) wins high marks for its hotel accommodation in Ischgl.

down below of the crossborder skiing network spread across 200km of pistes on the Silvretta skipass.

Skiing over to Samnaun in Switzerland: for duty-free shopping has long been a particular treat with intermediates looking for an excuse for long-range roaming. But now the Swiss have announced that duty free status for Samnaun will gradually be obased out.

Still, Ischgl's upper arena offers flattering skiing, many black runs easy enough for intermediates, to compensate for declining shopping oppor-





10an-4pm Sun

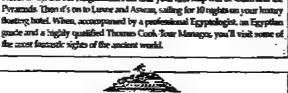
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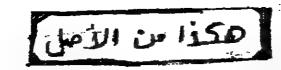


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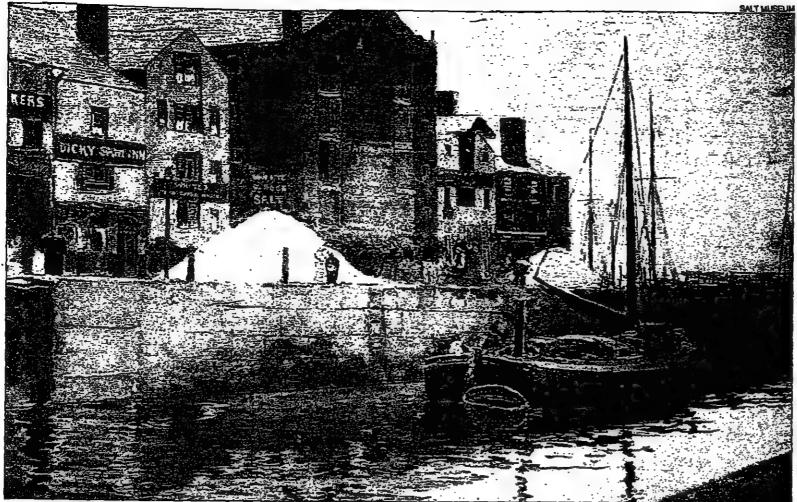
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CHESHIRE: On the Salt Trail, which dates from Roman times; and a walk around enchanted Alderley Edge



For centuries Cheshire's salt trade relied on barges for transport — from a painting by Cariton Grant (1885) at the Salt Museum

Exploring the crystal maze

salt pans in Northwich, turning the town into a giant cauldron of steam and smoke, as coal fires boiled the brine. The last pan closed in 1928, but we saw one being restored at the Lion Salt Works, midway along the Salt Trail. Cheshire's Salt Trail is triangular and takes in Winsford. Middlewich and Northwich, 13 miles by car or six hours' chugging by boat.

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- the Salt Museum, Anderton Boat Lift, Lion Sait Works and Northwich town centre - lie in a much smaller area and can be visited on foot.

The fine mansions of the salt barons in Cheshire are still there, although you have to hunt for them — they have been put to other uses. There, too, are the terraces of neat little Victorian houses where the workers used to live.

There are still sait pans to be found - rectangular lead or iron troughs, where brine was boiled to make the most valuable "white" salt — and salt houses, where temperatures caused men strip to the waist despite Victorian prudery.

The pubs in which they rehydrated between shifts (giv ing Northwich the sobriquet "town of drunks") still retain their names - the Salt Barge the Salthouse — if not their Victorian character.

Ask inside and you may still meet a retired "waller" (he raked the crystals to the edge of the brine pan), numered over a pint, or a "lumpman" (who compressed crystals into

The odd beam or steamengine still exists, oiled and polished with modern owner's pride. Once, they raised tubs, or pulled wagons along the "mineral line" out of Northwich, or powered barges laden with salt along the waterways. A million tonnes a year used to be moved in that way, but the flat-bottomed

The tools of the salt industry turn up occasionally in antique shops: skimmers for straining brine; wooden mundling pegs (like cricket bats) for tamping salt down in the elm tubs: happers for smoothing the sides of blocks; and chipping paddles for de-

sailboats have all rotted away.

scaling the pans.
We stayed at the centre of the triangle, in a Friendly Floatel (floating hotel) on the River Weaver, in which the cabins offer fine views of two 19th-century, electrically powered swing bridges - the

first to be built in Britain. Our trail began at the museum, once a workhouse, now a brightly lit, well displayed record of the industry. Interactive videos, working models (some life-size), artefacts and clearly captioned photographs tell the whole story from Roman times to the present day. Photographs re-

the conditions under long rush to make fortunes, priored the dangers worked in Victorian times: in leaving behind. intense heat, clouds of steam. slippery catwalks and un-

As more and more brine was pumped in or salt extracted, so the supporting salt pillars dissolved, until the tunnels collapsed. Roads and bridges cracked, buildings tipped or even toppled. Nowhere was the damage

greater than in Northwich town, where a honeycomb of more than 250 brine shafts and mines has been mapped by the Brine Compensation Board, set up in 1891 and still paying out sums ranging from £100 to £200 for subsidence damage (an average of 100 claims a year since 1990).

The Victorians built timberframed buildings which could be moved to safer locations. About 50 of these survive in Northwich: our final stop was Bridge House. Once an inn, in 1913 it was moved 100 yards on rollers without a single pane of glass breaking. But the Subsidence Trail is another story.

PETER FAIRLEY ◆ The author was a guest of the Friendly Floatel (01606 44443). Rocco C41-688. ■ The Sair Museum 101606 41331) is open Tues-Fri 10am-5pm: Sat, Sun 2-5pm.

The Lion Salt Works (01606 41823). Open 1-30-4-30pm daily (10.30am-4.30pm in July and

August). (01606 832460) at £60 a day

Answers from page 27 SEKT

guarded pans (workers had to

call to each other constantly to make sure nobody had fallen

into the boiling brine) — for

alt is still extracted from brine in Cheshire

pumped underground and

then pumped back to the

surface. The extraction is done

inside stainless steel vacuum

evaporators, which can be

Mining is still carried on at Meadowbank, near Winsford,

and visitors are welcome.

More than 100 miles of nun-

nels lie underground and

about 2.25 million tons of

amber-coloured rock salt are

Cheshire's salt is moved by

road, rail or pipeline today,

but for centuries it went by

barge. That tradition took us to the Anderton Boat Lift which is being restored. This

was where boats were lifted

between the Mersey and Trent

Canal and the River Weaver.

low flashes - freshwater lakes

- frequented by anglers and

interesting species of wildlife.

which cover collapsed, subter-

ranean salt workings. The first

mine owners, in their head-

There are numerous shal-

brought up each year.

viewed by appointment.

through solution min-

ing, where water is

paltry wages.

(c) A German sparkling white wine, sometimes described as champagne, to the rage and writs of the French vintners of champagne, many of whom were ancestrally German. From the German word, cf. sack.

family Leguminosae, native to Hawaii and Tahiti and bearing clusters of orange flowers. The Hawaiian name. The very soft, white wood of the wiliwili is still used by the natives for outriggers on their fishing canoes."

A spell in the woods

Spooky places attract spooky people, which is why a group of Nottingham University students had gathered at Alderley Edge, Cheshire. Sporting funny beards, clad in black cloaks and wielding wooden swords, they were planning to run around the woods in an energetic version of Dungeons and Drugons. Their peculiar pastime was

inspired by a local legend about a wizard who bought a white horse from a farmer travelling to Macciesfield mar-ket. The horse was bought to complete the wizard's cavalry, a sleeping army in a nearby cave which could spring to the country's defence if need be. The cave has never been identified, but the myth draws legions of visitors to these National Trust woodlands. Indeed, it is an ideal spot for

post-Sunday lunch expedition. The network of paths through the Scots pine and beech trees are well-signposted, easily navigable (some are suitable for wheelchairs and prams) and never too far from a car park. Most paths lead to Stormy Point, a cliff of red rocks from where there are breath-taking views of the Pennines. A stone records that the woods were given to the trust in 1948 by the daughters of Lawrence and Mary Pilkington, who enjoyed a constitutional stroll on clement days.

As you follow their example. you will spot repeated mythical references - Druid's Cir-cle, Devil's Grave and Wizard's Well. But don't expect too much from these landmarks — the well is an unimpressive stone sink with a lamentable drip, masquerading as a font of mystical powers. This sight should not distress you unduly if you turn studded vista in front of you.

From the well, progress to the steeper environs of Castle Rock, a wonderful natural rock staircase. "You can see Blackpool Tower from here on



Where wizards once wandered: Alderley Edge in Cheshir

a good day," I was informed by an eight-year-old boy, who should know these things. Head south towards the Armada Beacon, one of a chain lit to signal the arrival of the Spanish Armada in 1588.

speciacular network of mines lies underneath the woods. Usually closed, these were opened on the weekend i was there by the Derbyshire Caving Club. which occasionally organises group visits. I spent a fascinating hard-

hatted hour navigating a network of damp tunnels, guided by a man who spent his spare weekends unearthing buried passages. This is not a trip for those who might find the deep drops, narrow gaps and low tunnels a bit much. Those who do venture in will find themselves exploring vaults streaked with the dramatic blue and green of malachite and azurite, two copper ores.

Up above, another pleasant diversion is to stray just over a mile - down Artist's Lane and south on the A34 - to Nether Alderley, which has one of the prettiest flour mills in England. It must be one of the oldest too - a mill has stood here since 1391. It is run by

David Mosley, who said that the mill only operated in daylight. "You couldn't have candles in here because flour dust is like gunpowder," he says. "The place would have gone up like a powder keg." If the water levels are high enough, you may be treated to the sight of the mill in action. If the mill operated at full speed for eight hours, it would produce three tonnes of flour. And, during that time, nearly 180,000 gallons of water would flow through the wheels.

If the walk doesn't tire you out, the numbers will.

ANJANA AHUJA

the Laburnum Cottage Guest House, Mobberley, Cheshire WA 16 TPU (tel / fax 0) 565 872464) which has won six awards in five years. Room prices start at E28 for a single, E48 for a twin or double, including breakfast Alderley Edge is off the Macclesfield Road (B5087).

Admission free. Private visit to the local mines can be arranged by Derbyshire Caving Club (tel/fax 0147)

 Nether Alderlev Mill is vary. £1.80, children 90p. NT members free. Telephone 01743

7





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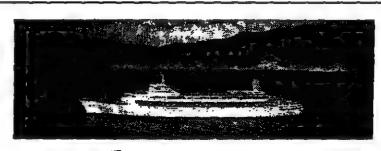
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(c) A schoolboy exclamation or ejaculation of delight or excitement. Splendid! Excellent! Good show! Hurrahl It must have something to do with whack. "After all it was only two days to — whacko! — Monday."

SETTECENTO (a) The eighteenth century considered as a

period of Italian art, architecture, music, etc. Italian, short for mil settecento, 1,700. Aldous Huxley, Olive Tree, 1936: "It is a scene from a settecento Earthly Paradise - before the Fall of

(c) A coral tree, Erythrina sandwicensis, of the



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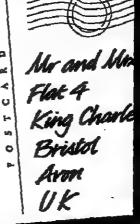
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sands of time

By William Smethurst Headline, El6.99

TAKE a large measure of Indiana Jones, season liberally with Stephen Hawking, top up with a twist of Wilbur Smith and you have Sinai. the latest thriller from the underrated William Smethurst.

The story that would do credit to The X-files: Egyptoloried up with historical fiction and all the attributes of a modern thriller: spies, religious fanatics, secret policemen and super weapons. Is a body guarded in a Cairo mortuary really that of 3,000year-old pharaonic warrior killed in the 1973 Yorn Kippur War? And why did a German tourist go missing in the desert and reappear at death's door speaking ancient Coptic? Si-

nai is Dr Who in the desert. Dr Richard Corrigan, an American academic in London who happens to be the world's leading expert on the 19th dynasty, is drawn into a web of seemingly far-fetched fantasies on the fringe of a world ready to re-crupt in war. The commendable cast of supporting characters include the well-to-do Lancashire chalet girl turned Middle Eastern tour guide to groups of American Bible scholars, the sultry blonde Somerset police-woman, Worboys, and the Widmerpoolian British Museum archaeologist intent on salvaging his own reputation on the edge of a holocaust.

Add to this mix the historical dimension of a sub-plot of domestic intrigue and political squabbling among an agnostic, blaspheming mob of Israelites fleeing Pharoah's Nubian mercenaries, and you have all the ingredients of an escapist tour de force.

This is a ripping yarn that sets the new batch of 1996 thrillers off at a cracking pace. The Book of Exodus will never

T. J. Binyon finds out why the French intelligence services are sometimes none too bright

Ce n'est pas la guerre: Greenpeace's flagship. Rainbow Warrior, sunk by French intelligence agents in Auckland harbour in July 1985

Cloaque and dagger

TWO SCANDALS mark the beginning and end of Douglas Porch's book — the Dreyfus affair and the sinking of the Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior in New Zealand. Both illustrate a particular characteristic - and endemic fault - of the French secret services: the blurring of the line between politics and

Other peculiarities are the fragmentation of intelligence gathering by the employment of a multiplicity of organisations, each under the control of a different ministry: the military domination of foreign intelligence; and the surveillance of France's own citizens to a degree rivalled only by the Tsarist or Soviet secret police.

This last is not new: letteropening services, the so-called cabinets noirs, date back to the 16th PETER MILLAR | century; and Victor Hugo, in exile in Guernsey in the time of Napoleon **■** THE FRENCH SECRET SERVICES: From the Dreyfus Affair to the Gulf War By Douglas Porch

III. made significant savings on postage by habitually enclosing several letters in one cover with a note to the cabinet noir. asking that they should be forwarded to their respective addresses.

Telephone-tapping has now sup-plemented letter-opening: Porch tells the story of one senator who. knowing his telephone to be tapped. ended each conversation with a phrase "merde au préfet!", prompting that official to ask, when they et, "Why do you hate me so?"

The golden era for French intelligence was the First World War, when its military branch was probably the best of all the armies in cryptanalysis, wireless eavesdrop-

ping, and interrogation of prisoners of war. Since then, however, there seems to have been a continual decline. During the inter-war years, intelligence became more politic-ised; the attempt, during the Second World War, to turn the Resistance into an intelligence-gathering movement failed: the preference of its

"an action culture" becoming part of the intelligence mentality, leading to dire consequences in Indo-China and Algeria. En passant, the author demolishes the myth of the Resistance, preferring, to Eisenhower's exag-gerated claim that it was worth six divisions to the Allies, Speer's comment: when asked what the effect of the French Resistance had been, he replied, "What French

members for action rather than

observation led to what Porch terms

Mistrusting the official intelli-

gence services, de Gaulle and his presidential successors have tended to set up parallel systems, leading to such sordid episodes as the exploitation of the former French in Africa, and l'affaire Rainbow Warrior.

Lucidly and elegantly written, this is a brilliant and fascinating work which goes beyond the brief set out in its title. Porch not only ruminates abstractly on the function and methods of intelligence but also, in keeping with his dictum that "intelligence can only be judged in the context in which it operates". illuminates, from an unusual angle, French politics and military operations. Most intriguing, perhaps, is his contention that the "base aéroterrestre" at Dien Bien Phu was established not with a military aim, but in order to protect the opium harvest - both sides needing the profit from it to finance their

How Prospero wove his magic

Brian Alderson on a sister's memoir of a remarkable publishing entrepreneur

THE TITLE of Mirabel Cecil's memoir of her brother, Sebastian Walker, A Kind of Prospero, was how the American illustrator, Maurice Sendak, described him. Through it we may perceive an enigmatic personality, given to a variety of (usually benign) wizardries. Such characters may be found

action compared with the business career that Walker fashioned. Walker Books, publisher of chil-dren's books, was founded in 1978 with a bank loan of £20,000 and the investment of some diverse experience. After abandoning work for a PhD on Michelet. Walker spent a year as a trainee in group manage-ment with an engineering firm, eight years as European rep for a

in senior common rooms, but how

circumscribed is their scope for

couple of publishers, and one year as director at Chatto & Windus. During this time he gained some experience in editing children's books but, more importantly, he perfected his skill at his favourite kind of reading: the bottom line of balance sheets. He also saw a gap in the market for the specialised publishing of books for younger children designed for an international market Calculations on the backs of envelopes yielded triumphant re-sults. The company was in profit

after two years and sales topped El million by the end of 1982.

What the balance sheets do not show, however, is the magic behind the publishing. Walker had a perfect touch in picking his editorial team and in guiding their purpose, whether they were devising the first list in the back bedroom of his house in Canonbury or taking the develop-ing company through a strange succession of offices, all of which lacked the customary publishing accountements of heavy walnut desks and deep-pile carpets. "What would authors think," said a coileague, "if they came into smart offices furnished with their money?"

That remark points up the second element of Walker's magic: his ability to get his authors and illustrators to work above themselves and then to see that they got as healthy a cut of the profits as A KIND OF PROSPERO: Sebastian Walker, 1942-1991 By Mirabel Cecil Walker Books, 14.99

possible. This was classic publishing entrepreneurship. At a time when the industry was giving itself up to faceless corporation. Walker was conjuring up originality and distinction with almost every month's new publications.

month's new publications.

Cecil gives only a sketchy indication of these multiple successes, relying for examples on the more immediately recognisable names, such as Helen Oxenbury, Nicola Denders, and Marchine Handford Bayley and Martin Handford, whose Where's Wally? and its successors sold by the million. As is only right, she is chiefly concerned with the character behind the enterprise, and a clear-eyed job she



Walker: perfect guiding touch

makes of it. The occasional "prima donna" rows and sackings have their place, the determined wooing of talent away from rivals, and, above all, "that strange sense that, in some fundamental way, Sebastian was out of touch with others".

How far this caused, or was caused by, his homosexuality is beyond explanation, but after all the jaunts and deals and dinners, the belief remains that Prospero was most at ease when trying to wrestle perfection out of a Chopin nocturne. There is poignancy in that which is brought to a moving intensity in Ceally final account of her brother's death from an Aids-related illness.

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tarting today. The Times offers you the chance to take a friend to the theatre for just 30p, the price of Britain's leading quality daily newspaper. There are more than 140 shows at more than 60 theatres throughout the country

to choose from. The quality of British theatre is unrivalled and the breadth of choice is unequalled. Whether you eniov blockbuster musicals or intimate dramas, top names in variety or leading contemporary ensembles, you will find them all

Among the many musicals on offer is a version of Charles Dickens's Great Expectations. starring Darren Day and Nyree Dawn Porter, in Birmingham, and A Christmas Carol starring Anton Rodgers, in Nottingham, Rock musicals include the story of Jerry Lee Lewis, in Coventry, and the life of Roy Orbison, in Bradford, as

Horror Show, in Woking, In London you can choose from The Fields of Ambrosia. a new musical, as well as an established favourite, Grease.

If you prefer opera and ballet. both are in our offer. At the Royal Opera House, London, you can choose The Sleeping Beauty or The Midsummer Marriage, and in Leeds, Opera North present the British premiere of a work written by Kurt Weill, Love Life, with

lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner. From Shakespeare clussics to popular contemporary writers, you are guaranteed a great evening. Simply collect five of the six tokens we will publish daily next week.

Today we publish the first part of our list with details of shows available in London and the South. A listing of participating theatres in other parts of Britain will appear in Monday's Times.



Geoffrey Church, left, and Ben Porter get to grips with Macbeth

HOW TO GET YOUR 30p THEATRE TICKETS

Collect five of the six tokens appearing in The Times next week and telephone the number given for the performance of your choice. When you buy one ticket at the listed price, you will receive a second ticket for 30p. Please do not telephone the theatre before Thursday, January 18, which is the first day they will start accepting bookings for this offer. Please state at the time of booking you are using The Times theatre ticket offer tokens. You may book over the phone but tickets cannot be issued until tokens have been received by the booking office. The offer is limited to one 30p ticket per performance per household. You may, however, book for more than one show at venues marked * and claim a 30p ticket for each production, but you must book all your tickets at the same time. You will not need another set of five tokens for each performance, the voucher (right) will them cover all. The tokens are valid only for the performance stated in the offer and cannot be exchanged for each or used in conjunction with any other offer. All tickets are subjected to availability.

Almeida Theatre 0171-359 4404 The Tower, all performances until Feb 3, All tuli-price tickets.

Ambrosia with Joel Higgins and Christine Andreas Jan 32 and 26 - 525/527, Drift Had 0171-637 8270 South Pacific with Pata Boulays and Peter Polycernou, Jan 16, 17, 18 at 7,30cm - \$12 are \$7 cores, Dominion Theatre 0171-416 5060 Grease with Richard Callest and Samarita Janua Jan 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31, Feb 5, 5, 7, -522 50/527 50 Duchess Theatre 0171-494 5078 Don't Dress for Dinner with Royce Mills, Kim Hartma and Deboran Wasting, Mon. Tues, Wes. Thurs evenings, Wed and Sat manness, urt? April 18 - £16/21950 Lync Treatre, Harranersrath 0181 741 2311 Macbeth with Paul Hoppins, 3/ performances between Jan 11 and Feb Sat - Toes: \$7.50, Wed and Thur: \$10; Fn and Sati £10/£12.50/£15. Prverside Saudos 0181 741 2255 Eros of Love and Destruction in Between. Feb E and 7 — 95/33. Royal Albert Hall 3171-863 8212 Seauty and the Beast, with the Publish All Stars, April 11 and 12, 7,35pm, April 13 and 14, 1.20cm and 7.50cm — all takes proces. Poyel Opera House* 0171-304-4000 The Steeping Beauty, Jan 22 and 25, evenings, orthograp statis only - 960/965. The Madsummer Marriage. Latt 27, Feb 8, protestra statis only —250 252. Theatre Royal Haymerket 0171-930 8200 The Best of Times with Denis Outlier. Feb 11 - 31250 upper orde. The Players Theatre 0171-839 1134 Victorian Music Hall Tues, Wed. Thurs and Sunday, from Feb 7 to Mar 31, 9,15cm - 215, Tricycle Theatre 0171-328 1000 Two Trains Running, Jan 25 and 26, S.D. Str., Jan 27, 4,000% and 8,00pm; - £5,00 all trokets. Theatre Royal Stratford East* 0181 534 0310 4 Softfer's Song. Mar 14, 15, 15, 19, 20 and 21 at 5pm - 212, 215 What A Bleedin' Liberty Apr 12, 19 22 22, 24 and 25 at 8cm - £12/£15. Savoy Theatre 5171-836 8888 Communicating Door with Ariges Thome, at performances between Jan 29 and Mar 3

lidwych Theerre 0171-416 6048 The Fields of

excluding Fin and Sac evenings — 200,1024 Theatre Royal 01225 448844 Hysteria Harry nan with Assista C'Seltran, Tim Forter and Fred Pearson, Jan 30 and 31 – 915 and 918

BRACKNELL Wilde Theatre 1013-24 484 123 Sali to New York, with Charles Saster and Sand, Feb 13 & 7,30cm -28/27/50/22/29/50.

27 at 7.30pm - 95/97 50/98/99.50. BURY ST EDMUNDS Theatre Royal 01234 789 505 (Deec.) Constant/Glass/Mursch, Feb 17 at 7.20271 -№ 56. Three Sisters/The Break of Day, with 4.12

Catherine Russell, Feb 5, 9 and 9 to 7,30pm, Feb

Dobson, Maria Fredmann, Nicel Terry and

10, at 2,30pm - \$9,50, \$10,50.

The Bacchee - Cancing with a Tyrant, Jan 25, 25,

BRISTOL Old Vic* 0117 987 7877 Much Ade About Nothing, Feb 8 to 15 — \$5/\$7/\$11,50, \$14, \$17.50. Twelve Angry Men, Mar 7 to 14 -55/67/511.50/514/517.50



Anita Dobson and Kate Ashfield play two in Chekhov's Three Sisters

Marc Marion and Her Marry Man, April 12 to 18 -EL E7, E11.50/E14/E17.50 An Enemy of the People, May 10 to 18 -25 ET E11.57/E14/E17.50 Quakers Friats 0117 953 7735 Double Jeopardy wheaved reading not the full production, Jan 26

Pavilica Theatre 01202 297297 Beauty and the Beast, with The Russian All Stars April 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 - \$8,59/\$12,50/ \$16,50

CHELMSFORD Ginc Theatre" 01245 495 028Out of Order, Jan 25 to Feb 2, all performances except Sat evening -Tues, Thus/Sat matimes: SB and SB.75, concs 95.75 215 14.5% Fin evening 158 and 58.75, no concs.

BOURNEMOUTH

The Macross of George III, Feb 29 to Mar 9. ಲದಂದ Sat evenings, Tues/Wed/Thus and Sat mathèe 13/15/75, coma 15/75/54.59; Fri exeming: 55 15 m comes EPSOM Playhouse* 01372 742 555

Arabian Krights, Jan 26, 7.30pm, Jan 27 at 2.30m and 7.20m - £12.50 Dancers from Christopher Gable's Central School of Ballet, Apr 2 & 7 39cm - 911 50. The Wind in the Willows. Feb 26 to Mar 2 at 7,30cm — 210, Flamenco Fiestz, Var 4 at 3.00pm - £10. Shakespeare's The Wircers Tale, Feb 12 and 13 at 7.30pm - \$10

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD The Cid Town Hall* 01442 242 827 The House of Bernada Alba. Jan 20 at 85m = 66. The Man Who Ate His Shoes, Feb 2, at 8pm 55.

HORNCHURCH Queen's Thesary" 01709 443 353

Face - The Musical With Bottle, Feb 6, 7, 6, 13, 14, 15, 20, 22, 8.00pm - \$8.90/£10.90/£12.90. Steel Magnofas, Mar 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21 at 8.00pm - £8.90/£10.90/£12.90. Plan 9 From Outer Space, Apr 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18 at 8 00pm — 68.90/£10.90/£12.90. The Railway Children, Apr 30 to May 2, May 7, 8. 9. 14, 15, 16 at 8.00pm - £8.90/£10.90/£12.90.

ILFORD, ESSEX Kerentith More Theatre" 0181-583 AAGIS Dick Whitington, any Wed/Thurs/ Fri until Feb 2. 7pm - \$7.90. It Runs in the Family, Feb 7, 8, 9, 3pm - 25.25.

The Late Mrs Early, Feb 14, 15, 16 8,00cm -Side by Side by Sondhelm - Musical Review, Feb 23 and 24, Born - 55.25. NORTHAMPTON

Derngate* 01604 24811 Conduct Unbecoming with Carol Dirnkwater, Gerald Harper, Christopher Blake, Andrew Lancel, Jason Ridgington, David Gmillion and Tenence: Wilton, Jan 30 and Feb 1 at 7.30pm, Jan 31 at 2.30pm - Tues/Thurs: £12.50; mat: £10. Rambert Dance Company. Feb 13, 7.30pm - £17.

Pegasus Theatre 01885 722 851 The House of Beront Albe, but 23 - 28, 00 comes in the her, Jan 26 ~ 96. £4 concs. Certain Obse Feb 19 - SB. E4 concs. Denista, Mar 7 - 26, 24 cores. Bluff, Feb 1 - 58, 64 cones. Animates Classics III, Feb 9 and 10 - 95, 94 cones.

Festival Theatre 01803 558641 Beauty and the Board, Thursday All Chars, Feb 27, 25 and Mar 1 at. 7.30pm, Feb 29 and Mar 2 at 2.30pm and 7.30pm

-£18.50/18.50/£12.50/£7.50/£5.50.

POOLE

Pools Arts Centro* 01202 686 222 Private Uhus, Feb 19 - E11, Confusions with Rule Lensies. Christopher Timothy and Graham Seed, Mar 11 -£12.90. Misery with Val Lehmer; and Nigel Harrison, Mar 18 - £11.

RICHMOND

Orange Tree Theatre* 0181-940 3833 The Simpleton of the Unexpected Isles with Kats O'Mare, Jan 23, 24, 25 January - 59.50 full price tets only. The Good Women of Seizum, Feb 6.

SOUTHEND ON SEA Calls Province 1 01702 351 125 Died Mr for Monday with Peter Davison, Feb 26 to Mar 2, excluding matinées - 98/99/910/911/912, Barnum with Andrew O'Gonnor, Jan 23, to 27, exct mats -E7.50/E9.50/E11.50/E13.50/E15.50/E17.50/E19.80.

GOUTHSEA Kings Theatre 01705 828 282 Mennald, Feb 20 and 21 at 2.30pm, ~ £5.50. Caraterbury Tales with Brian Glover, May 8 at 7.30pm — £10.50/£12.50.

SOUTHAMPTON The Mayllower 01703 711811 Beauty and the Beast with the Russian Ali Stars, Mar 5, 7, 8 at

7.30pm, Mar 6, and 9 at 2.30pm and 7.30pm -

£19.50/£17.50/£15/£12/£10. TUNBRIDGE WELLS sembly Hall 01892 530613 Beauty and the

Beast with the Russian All Stars, Mar 13, 14, 15, at 7.30, Mar 16 and 17 at 2pm and 7.30pm -£20.50/£18.50/£16.50/£12.50.

rspaper, with the same five tokens.

New Victoria Theatre* 01483 781 144 Dici



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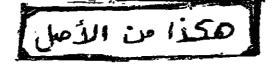
Kate O'Mara stars in The Simpleton of the Unexpected Isles

Vittington with Lesley Joseph, Rosemarie Ford, Kriss Akabusi, Windsor Davies, Robert Duncan, and Jeffrey Holland, Jan 23 to Feb 1 - £15. Hysteria, Feb 6, 7, 8 et 8pm -- £11/£13, *Dracul*a Feb 27, 28 and 29 — £1 1/£13. Unforgettable - The Mat King Cole Story with Clarke Peters, Mar 12, 13, 14 - £11/£13. The Racky Horror Show, Mer 19, 20 at 8pm, Mar 21 at 7pm — £15.50/£17.50. Calamity Jane with Germma Craven and Stephen McGann, Mar 25, 26, 27 March at 8pm - £16/£18.

WELLINGBOROUGH

The Castle® 01933 270 007 A Tale of Two Cities. Feb 1 Feb at 7.30pm - £8. The Jungle Book, Feb 19 and 21 at 2.30pm, Feb 20 at 2.30pm and 7.30pm - £7. The Coult Quartet in Concert, Feb 4 at 7.30pm - 96. The Fall of the House of Usherattas, Mar 7 at Bpm — £5.

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Rr ting

BOOKS

For the love of a good chinwag

THE ENTWINED themes of Helen Stevenson's second novel are love and landscape. Explorations of both weave through the plot, enriching the texture of the story which put simply although Stevenson's sumptuous style

is anything but that - is about a woman, Elizabeth, who loses her singing voice and then her lover. This lover, a sculptor called Will, has caused Elizabeth to leave a married man, Mark, with whom she has been having a restrained, well-mannered affair for years. Will lays siege to Elizabeth's aloofness and then, a little short of nine months later, vanishes. Elizabeth is summoned to collect his ashes from a hopelessly incompetent

DODIE SMITH will always

be remembered as the author

of The Hundred and One

Dalmatians, the story whose rereleased Disney version launched a million plastic

breakfast bowls last year. But

her heart, as a writer, always

belonged in the prewar West

End theatre - the secure, starry, mink-clad world of bright and lively drawing-

Dodie was the sort of girl people call "spirited", "kooky"

or "feisty". She endured some

years of penury as a failing bit-

part actress before sensibly

landing a job at Heal & Son,

where she decided to "collect"

her employer, Ambrose Heal,

in one of the joilliest bits of

adultery you have ever seen.

He already had a beloved wife

and an awesome mistress, but

day Heal pinned a ticket

marked vendu (sold) on her

dress. "How long is one sup-

posed to hold goods for cus-

tomers who don't take delivery?" Dodie challenged

him. The subsequent relation-

ship, and others of her youth,

fed her writing for decades.
As Valerie Grove explains at

the opening of this delicious

champagne cocktail of a book.

Dodie left millions of words

about herself in the form of

letters, journals and four auto-

this did not bother Dodie.

room comedies.

Brittle

young
thing

■ DEAR DODIE: The Life

True, she "struck gold three

times, in three different genres, in three different de-

cades" but the gold is of varied purity. Her best-known novel,

Capture the Castle, is a cult.

but very much a minority one

(now republished by Virago

Modern Classics at £6.99) and

nobody will be broken-hearted

Dear Octopus, never sees the

footlights again.

Dodie's sad fate is to em-

body features of the 1930s that

deserve obscurity: the "brittle"

frivolity, the anti-Semitism. She and her handsome hus-

band, Alec Beesley, scarpered

for America as soon as war

looked likely, ostensibly

but, even from Grove's sympa-

thetic account, the word "self-

"selflessly left England for Alec's beliefs", yet the truth was that she could not survive

for a day without him to

arrange her meals, money and

mottled mutts while she wrote

and read. Basking in the Californian sun, giggling and gossiping with Christopher Isherwood and John van

Druten (the author, thanks to

Dodie's encouragement, of I

Sinister dealings in the dark alleys of a new democracy

Dodle believed that she had

ishness" springs to mind.

her West End triumph.

of Dodie Smith

By Valerie Grove

Penny Perrick listens intently to the chatty riches of a story of romance lost and found

Sarah Johnson finds the life of a prewar adventurer and author fizzy, frivolous and great fun

WINDFALL By Helen Stevenson Sceptre, £16.99

solicitor in a scene that displays Stevenson's macabre humour at its most glittering. The carton containing the ashes has "Will's name on it in black felt-tip (no delicacy spared) as though he were the addressee and not

Reluctant to dispose of this awkward becruest. Elizabeth travels to France to

stay with the recently widowed Marguerite and begin a convalescence of the spirit. Also making the journey to Marguerite's farmhouse are Christian. a pavement artist, Aidan, a schoolmaster whose career has had a shaftering jolt. Alicia, one of his former pupils, and Mark, now divorced and hoping to reclaim Elizabeth.

These characters have interesting and original ideas on everything under the sun, from troubadour poetry to the reason why people travel in shell suits: they put a shell on their backs to compensate for the strangeness of being away from home. Still on clothes, which play a major part in the story. Elizabeth, musing on headscarves, "mentally congratulated the Queen for being quite possibly the first woman in history to have made an item of clothing go out of fashion by her association with it".

This must be one of the chattiest novels ever. There are no end of fascinating conversations as people collide, part, and, fatefully, regroup. It has an odd feverish quality; within a few pages it flicks from profound philosophy to light-fingered nonsense without losing its absorbing power.



Adams on the eve of the century

Sceptre, £9.99. paperback original

SOMETIMES fiction veers too close to history for its own good. The true story of the construction of the Panama Canal, begun by the French in 1881 and finished by the Americans in 1914, is so remarkable in its own right that any novel propped up against its bulk is in danger of looking a little thin. The French effort, overseen by le grand Français. Ferdinand de Lesseps — the builder of Suez — collapsed in the face of bad planning, the ravages of disease and mysterious fraud; it was not until 1904, under the charismatic aegis of Theodore Roosevelt. that the struggle to build a path between the seas would be resumed.

It is a brave novelist who inserts his own mystery into this exciting stew, and a braver one still who takes as his detective Henry Adams, journalist, historian, the descendant of two presidents and redoubtable author of the nine-volume History of the United States of America during the Administrations of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. Ēric Zencey's Panama is set in 1892, in a Paris still rocked by the Canal scandal Adams, not yet recovered from the suicide of his wife seven years earlier, is drawn to Miriam Talbott, a free-spirited American art student: when another woman's body is fished out of the Seine and identified as hers, he sets out on a quest that will lead him to the heart of governmental corruption - on both sides of

comparison with The Alienist, another thriller set in the 19th century on the cusp of the development of forensic detection. And as Caleb Carr recreated fin-de-siècle New York, so Zencey has brought Paris alive, right down to the "baked-fish scent" of iron made hot by the new electric lights. More importantly he has given us a Henry Adams who is recognisably the author of The Education of Henry Adams and a fine fictional creation, one who, wifeless, knew himself to be more portable in the world" and so game for some spare-time sleuthing.

Panama inevitably invites

the Atlantic.

Zencey is himself an historian and a contributing editor of North American Řeview which Adams once edited. In choosing not the whole broad scope of the Panama saga for his backcloth but an as yet obscure detail of its history, he has created a story that is both thriller and an examination of a changing world. In his first novel. Zencey has proved him-self well up to the task of sustaining our interest and suspending our disbelief.

How to Write a

THE COMPLETE GUIDE

TO BECOMING A

SUCCESSFUL AUTHOR

ELIZABETH BUCHAN **ERICA WAGNER**

biographies, a huge, withy record of a theatrical and literary life. Wonderful for a biographer — but what did Dodie Smith's life amount to? But when in 1959 Walt ports all this gracefully, giving am a Camera). Dodie "ached feeding rats like birds "until to share D-Day so that she the lawn was alive with them". Disney came to lunch, the us the best of the irrepressible Returning to a postwar Eng-land where playwrights had to could write a Britain-at-war anti-Semite in Dodie was Dodie Smith without hiding play". I'm sure she did. charmed: "Walt's nickname

PRAGUE, to Douglas Skeggs, is not the pretty, bustling area around Wenceslas Square but the grim backstreets, cramped apartments and crumbling buildings beyond the tourist havens. This is Prague as a symbol of the new European democracies, free of its former ideological shackles but not quite sure what to put in their place, a city in which striny new democrats, old communists, fascists and unashamed

opportunists struggle for a stake in the fledgling state. Former Czech activist Jan Capek, now working for British intelligence, is sent back to his native city to find out who is feeding the English art market with high-class paint-

The art of murder in Prague

THE PHOENIX OF By Douglas Skeggs Little, Brown, £15.99

ings from the collection of the Romanian dictator, Ceausescu. Capek's first contact has been killed minutes before his arrival. The police take violent exception to his presence in Prague. He finds himself in thrall to a beautiful painter

The Times/Dillons Bestsellers

HARDBACK

with a murky past. His activities come to the attention of the inister leader of a new polit-

Grove does not probe the

reasons for Dodie's childless-

ness. Instead she gives us the funny side: Dodie's devotion

to animals, which extended to

At the same time, his British masters are starting to behave strangely. Killings, beatings and frenetic chases occur with satisfying regularity. Ceausescu's works of art become the focus of something much

more frightening.

The Phoenix of Prague has the feel of postwar Vienna, or Eric Ambier's Balkans between the wars. Skeggs has a feel for a place in political and social transition. He is also a good storyteller and he knows his paintings, too.

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MARCEL BERLINS

Passion flowers

middle-aged woman to fall in love with a boy unless you are that middle-aged woman and you have fallen in love with the boy." Thank goodness for that. The queasy feelings experienced by female fortysomethings on reading The Love Letter are mitigated by Cathleen Schine's honesty and by a final twist in the story that goes some way to neutralising lurking in the text. These shifts in perspective are characteristic of the novel's see-saw charm and pleasantly provoking content.

Spot of fame: Smith is best remembered for Disney's One Hundred and One Dalmations

politicise or die, she was

baffled by writers such as

Pinter: "One couldn't care less

what happens next." she wrote

"IT'S PREPOSTEROUS for a

of The Birthday Party.

Divorced, attractive and running a bookshop in Pequot, a seaside town in New England, Helen acknowledges that life is good even with her daughter away and her former husband making much money. The

bookshop is thriving, partly because of her light, flirtatious touch with customers, partly because of her eclectic taste and stringent standards, partly to the local taste for military history.

She is not an easy boss, something which the two students working in their summer vacation discover. So too does the third: good-looking Johnny who sports an carring and a mouth like Jeanne Moreau's. Then Helen discovers a letter left lying in the store. "How does one fall in love? it asks the unknown "Goat" to whom it is addressed, and triggers thereby the deconstruction of Helen's

certainties. Borrowing the idea from Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing, The Love Letter is a neatly plotted, thriftily constructed meditation on the power of suggestion. As Helen discovers, if a love affair is founded on airy nothings, subsequent unleashed emotions can be anything but. The references are literary and structure precisely balanced.

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was Mickey Rat, so she had

expected a small, mean-look-

ing Hollywood Jew; but he

was tall, broad, Midwestern

and good-looking." Grove re-

THE LOVE LETTER

but the tone is unalarming

and the prose, which occasion-

ally plunges into the arch.

traces the hesitations, subter-

fuges and desperations of love

with the thoroughness of the

being comfortable. Now she

was not. Now "she understood

passion and, helpless to do

otherwise, she clung to it" -

and the author is very convinc-

ing on its unexpected and

Helen had spent her life

By Cathleen Schine

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Jayne Anne Phillips: a powerful and intelligent tale

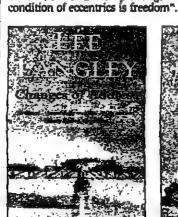
■ SHELTER

ceived powers of darkness in By Jayne Anne Phillips Faber, £5.99 a fight for survival. Setting the ordered world of the THIS INTENSE and abcamp against the beauty and sorbing novel is set in an menace of nature and the American all-girls' camp in the summer of 1963. Refree spirits of the children against the weird preoccupamoved from their dysfunctions of adults. Phillips builds her unsettling story. tional homes. Lenny, Cap. Alma and Delia affect disdrawing the reader confidain for campfire singsongs. dently and mercilessly into vanishing into the forest to the deepest thoughts of her be alone with nature and each other. But the forest has Her descriptive gifts reach their remarkable height

other inhabitants — an al-most feral young boy, his psychopathic step-father and when children, adults, nature and the elements cona fanatically religious exverge in a grim battle that must remain forever secret You begin by thinking this from the outside world. This is a story about adolescent uncompromising book conrisk-taking and the corrupfirms Jayne Anne Phillips as an extraordinarily powerful tion of innocence, but gradually enter a more complex writer who draws uncannily universe, in which individon all her senses, expecially uals confront real or per-

■ ECCENTRICS By David Weeks and Jamie James

SARAH WINCHESTER, wife of the American arms manufacturer Oliver Winchester, belived that the ghosts of those killed by her husband's rifles would haunt her unless she built a house big enough to hold them all. When she died in 1922, her home had 158 rooms, over 2,000 doors and more than 10,000 windows. She is just one of the eccentrics - Isaac Newton and William Blake among them - encountered in this hugely entertaining study, the first to look seriously at this "disorder". Does eccentricity distort life or enhance it? In the end, one cannot help but agree with the authors that "the



■ CHANGES OF

ADDRESS



LIONS AND ceptre. £5.99

By Lee Langley Minerva, £5.99 MAGGIE'S mother married FENTON'S satirical novel is certainly timely. Her romanher father because she was told that she should not, and tic comedy is about a starry film crew descending on a Yorkshire village to shoot soon got tired of him. She dragged her daughter round Pride And Prejudice. The amours which blossom bethe fringes of polite society in 1940s India, bouncing from tween the director, her cheerman to man and leaving ful leading lady and two behind her luggage whenever her allowance ran out. cultured local fellows echo Austen's plot while drolly updating the relationships to Thus Maggie acquired a precocious knowledge of the modern mores. The assured director, Mary Dance, is as world, a beloved, shortlived baby brother, and a burning much the new Mr Darcy as ambition to escape from her an Elizabeth Bennett. This mother as soon as possible. cosily witty paperback is being rushed to press, avail-This sad but fascinating book gives both a child's-eye able on February 15, having view of the last days of the been picked for serialisation Raj, and a portrait of a very peculiar mother-daughter this month on Radio 4's

Woman's Hour.

By David Wishart

relationship.

THE POET Ovid has died in exile. His step-daughter Perilla wants his ashes brought back to Rome. To secure the necessary imperial approval, she turns to the dissolute Marcus Corvinus, grandson of Ovid's former patron. But Tiberius denies permission. Why? Like Chandler's Marlow, Corvinus wisecracks his way through a weary world of murder and intrigue until he hunts down the truth. A taut thriller in which ancient Rome springs to life.

Contributors: Nicki Household, Erica Wagner, Fiona Hook, Kate Bassett. Ross Leckie



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CHAMBER

Hilary Finch

HANDEL The Complete Sonatas for Recorder Verbruggen/Koopman/ Ter Linden Harmonia mundi

HMU 907151** Suites for Keyboard Keith Jarrett ECN New Series 1530 445 298-2*

HERE are two widely differing views of Handel. The excellent Dutch trio of flautist Marion Verbruggen, harpsichordist Ton Koopman and cellist Jaap Ter Linden have Handel wrote during the 1720s for the sweet-voiced recorder, English flute, or flute à bec, as it was called in 18th-century England.



Jarrett: strangely numb

A copy of a 1730 Jacob Denner alto recorder makes its stately ornamented progress through the Sonata No II in F. For the Fourth Sonata. in A minor, a copy of a 1700 Thomas Stanesby alto recorder is lit by the coppery glint of Koopman's harpsichord playing and the stride of Jaap Ter Linden's cello.

The little 1730 Stanesby voice flute in D duets with the cello's long-breathed lines in the Largo of the Sonata No 9 in D minor, before hiding and seeking its way irresistibly through the Presto's chase.

The meeting of the versatile classical and jazz pianist Keith Jarrett with Handel is a disap-

SHOPAROUND

pointment. This most imagi-native of performers seems strangely numb in the face of the composer whose keyboard suites he has apparently been studying for 20 years. And when it comes to an encounter with Handel as improvisatory composer, Jarrett is only demure and mild-mannered.

OPEREITA

John Higgins

M SULLIVAN The Yeomen of the Guard Mellor/Palmer/Archer/ Suart/Maxwell/Welsh National Opera Orchestra/ Mackerras

Evans/Banks/Suart/Welsh National Opera Orchestra/ Mackerras

Telarc CD-80404 (2 CDs)** TELARC'S Yeomen follows too closely on the excellent Philips version of Gilbert & Sullivan's tale of double dealings at the Tower for commercial comfort. But Yeomen is in the WNO repertoire, so Yeomen it was to be. Spoken dialogue is reduced

to a couple of shreds to allow Trial by Jury to be fitted onto the second CD. Yeomen. whose plot has a few wriggles. suffers from this approach. Act I, with short number following hot on the heels of short number until the complex finale, is in danger of sounding perfunctory and too

Charles Mackerras really grips the piece in the second act when Richard Suart's Jack Point, wistful and self-deprecating, comes into his own. Felicity Paimer's Dame Carruthers keeps the rack turning in the Tower with a certain amount of vibrato. But Neill Archer's Fairfax sounds merely bland, Alwyn Mellor's soprano is too heavy for Elsie (a diffcult role), and Pamela Helen Stephen makes an anonymous Phoebe.

The real bonus in this issue lies in the whizzing performance of Trial by Jury. The cast, led by Suart's jolly Judge, puts a leer on some of Glibert's NEW ON VIDEO: The summer before Stalin; nobbling Ty Cobb; Antonioni double bill



BURNT BY THE SUN Fox, 15, 1994 DIRECTOR Nikita M Nikita Mikhalkov works hard engineering the Chekhovian atmosphere of a country house basking in a hot summer's day as Stalin begins his purges. Mikhalkov himself plays the Bolshevik hero enjoying the sweet life at his dacha. Both as actor and director he tends towards self-indulgence, and his daughter Nadia, a six-year-old witness to the drama, proves a mixed blessing. The sweeping camerawork is easy on the eye, but the film needs more darts of irony.

L'AVVENTURA

Connoisseur, PG, 1959
ANTONIONI'S brand of enigmatic cinema has long since fallen from fashion, but this archetypal example can still enthral if you adjust to the film's rhythms and stop worrying over the wafer-thin plot about a woman's disappearance from a yacht. Monica Vitti leads the friends whose search for the missing woman prompts beautiful compositions and existential dread.

■ BYE BYE LOVE Fox Guild. 12, 1995

HOLLYWOOD comedy conceived by, and for, male baby-boomers. Three recently divorced dads head the

track, while the jokes deal with former wives, new girlfriends and weekend custody of the kids. A few furny scenes arrive when Randy Quaid embarks on a disastrous blind date, but the bulk is wearisome.

COBB

Warner, 18, 1994 BIOGRAPHICAL movies usually have sympathetic subjects. Not so this prickly treatment of American baseball legend Ty Cobb, portrayed as a monstrous egomaniac, violent and racist, struggling in old age to dictate rosy memoirs to a tormented journalist. Tommy Lee Jones's fiery perior mance is worth watching, and director Ron Shelton shows exceptional feeling for the lore and language of American sports. A rental release.

IL DESERTO ROSSO

Connoisseur, 15, 1964 WITH Red Desert, Antonioni added colour to his armoury, wielding it with the same rigorous control that he used over composition and editing. Monica Vitti returns as his central character, a woman in Ravenna toying with an affair in the midst of a nervous breakdown. Antonioni conjures extraordinary images from the bleak industrial landscape.

GEOFF BROWN

limits, yet this is one of those

occasions where quiet and introspection offer their own

David Sinclair

Aether Talk, Ambient

that all shed light in one way

or another on the often over-

looked relationship between

the sound of music and the

sounds of the environment

The album's range is phe-

from whence it came.

our notions of what music actually is — it functions magnificently.

nomenal: from the frantic squalls of free jazz noise

produced (acoustically) by the

Peter Brotzmann Octet on their 1968 recording of Mach-

ine Gun and the distressed

guitar overload of the Velvet Underground U Heard Her

Call My Name) and My Bloody Valentine (Loomer) to the pastoral beauty of Claude Debussy's Prélude à l'Après-

midi d'un Faune played by the

English Chamber Orchestra

Along the way we hear "field"

recordings of Buddhist chants.

howler monkeys, boat horns,

train whistles, and birdsong.
The imaginative sequencing
and skilful editing together of

the tracks to produce a virtual-

ly seamless listening experi-ence out of such wildly diverse

material is certainly impres-

sive. And as a vehicle for illustrating Toop's point — that there is a hidden world of

music within the sounds that

are occuring around us all the

time, and that these sounds

help to shape and determine

David Sinclair

BABYLON 200

EMI 8 82649**

FOLLOWING the pattern of songs by Stiltskin, Shaggy, the Clash and others, Spaceman is the latest soundtrack from a Levis advertisement to head for instant chart glory. The debut single by British group Babylon Zoo, it has proved the perfect accompaniment for the "alien babe" commercial but also holds up in its own right.

A heavily synthesized rocker, with an oddly lurching, varispeed intro, Spaceman is rich in futuristic imagery, with echoes of David Bowie and Gary Numan that extend well beyond its title. "Morbid fascinations, television takes control . . . Electronic information tempers with your soul," sings Jas Mann, the group's 24year-old songwriter and lead-er. With its bright, icy appeal and a moody undercurrent, it sounds as if it should wear well. Like the jeans.

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TO MEDICO

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most suggestive couplets. Barry Banks and Rebecca Evans as the litigants would grace any breach-of-promise court. Don't dilly-dally at the Tower. drop into the Old Bailey.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

TIPPETT The Heart's Assurance; Concerto for Double String Orchestra; Divertimento on "Sellinger's Round": Little Music for String Orchestra Ainsley/City of London Sinfonia/Hickox

Chandos CHAN 9409** THE LATEST disc in Richard Hickox's Tippen series for Chandos, this time with the City of London Sinlonia, attractively balances the known and the less known, including a premiere recording.

The latter is of Tippett's superb song cycle The Heart's Assurance, not in the usual

version for tenor and plano. but in the orchestration made by Meirion Bowen. The Heart's Assurance was Tippett's response to the suicide of a close friend, Francesca Allinson. The composer's grief and bitterness were so profound that he could bring himself to make these settings of poems by Sidney Keyes and Alun Lewis only five years later, and those emotions are projected more powerfully than ever in Bowen's skilful orchestration. John Mark Ainsley is the excellent tenor

in the Concerto for Double String Orchestra. Hickox draws lively, responsive playing from the Sinfonia. The Divertimento on "Sellinger's Round" is derived from a multi-composer commission for the 1953 Aldeburgh Festival. Tippett subsequently expanded his contribution, and this piece and the Little Music for String Orchestra are given alert, stylish performances.

JAZZ Clive Davis

KATHLEEN BATTLE

So Many Stars

Sony Classical SK 68473±±± BILLIE HOLIDAY she is not. but on this soothing collection of spirituals, ballads and lullabies Kathleen Battle sensibly makes no pretensions to being a jazz diva. Aware that La Scala and Birdland do not easily mix, she remains true to her classical background, and relies on her select group of musicians - led by the pianist

phrasing seems excessively formal is, in fact, the title time. where Alan and Marilyn Bergman's lyrics call for a certain degree of intimacy and relaxation. The rest works surprisingly well on its own terms. Chestnut is just the right man for Steal Away and

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the Creole lullaby Fais Do Do.

while Grover Washington's

lightweight soprano saxo-

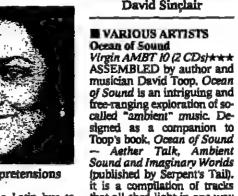
phone, usually out of its depth

in a straight jazz context, forms a genial foil to Battle.

Romero Lubambo's acoustic

Cyrus Chestnut - to take care of the swing. The one occasion where her

a high-class group being so careful to play within its



Battle: no pretensions

guitar brings a Latin hue to the lilting interpretation of Villa-Lobos's Melodia Sentimental. Overall, jazz lovers may find it frustrating to hear

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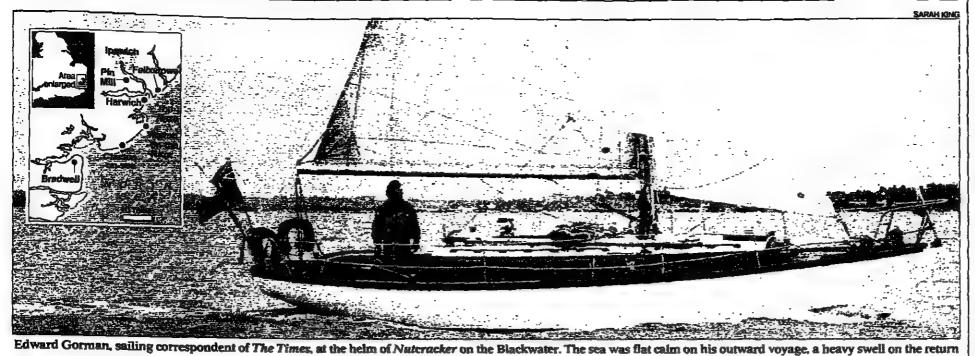
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SAILING: Undaunted by the conditions, Edward Gorman makes an East Coast odyssey



og in January in the Wallet, off Clacton in Essex. A flat calm. Not a breath of wind to stir the surface. Nutcracker, my 35-foot cutter, driven by her engine, plugging on into the

This was the second time I had invited a friend. Dan, to share the dubious pleasures of a "winter cruise". He was beginning to wonder whether we would ever hoist a sail or see anything. Once again we were out in a windless pea soup, and far from enjoying the delights of the East Coast views of Clacton pier. Frinton-on-Sea, Walton-onthe-Naze and Harwich harbour - our field of vision was restricted to a couple of hundred yards either side of the

As we nervously slid out of the Blackwater Estuary, looking for the Bench Head buoy, our eyes fixed on the compass which alone could guide us from one waypoint to another, a seal dipped lazily below the surface alongside us. After that we saw almost nothing except the rubbish which an agitated sea normally

There were bits of plastic everywhere, what looked like part of a staircase floating out

Chilled in a pea soup

Pin Mill."

towards Holland, tiny oil slicks. A condom drifted past. Dan put a brave face on it all. "It's like the title sequence to Arena," he said as I went below for the Jack Daniel's. That bottle floating in the

Atlantic, Except we are miles from the open ocean." Then there was the cold. The forecast had spoken of a south to south-easterly which, had it materialised, would have been far preferable to a dreaded northerly, and a maximum air temperature of seven degrees. After several hours in the cockpit, we were beginning to feel the chill, starting in our

boots and working its way up. The Jack Daniel's proved a worthy foil as we pressed on past the occasional lobster pot. through a flat, cold sea which would have killed us in less than half an hour, had either of us fallen in. Although I have a Decca navigation system on board, its workings remain a mystery to me and it has not even been plugged in since the boat was rewired last year. Sailing with the tide dead astern, we simply followed the

compass courses between buoys, using the Medusa buoy off the Naze Ledge as our point to turn into Harwich. Our itinerary was the staple

diet of East Coast sailors - a trip from Bradwell Marina on the Blackwater Estuary in Essex, along the coast through the Wallet. into Harwich harbour past Felixstowe docks. then up the Orwell river to the hamlet of Pin Mill in Suffolk, where the idea was to pick up a mooring and go ashore for

The journey, of some 35 miles each way, is ideal for a two-day outing and can offer challenging sailing at sea followed by the tranquil rural legance of the Orwell.

Pin Mill, an old shipbuilding and smuggling village where ships were demagnetised during the last war to protect them from mines, is among the most inviting destinations for the east coast sailor. In his guide Tideways and Byways in Essex and Suffolk. Archie White put it like this: "It has been said that

Mohammedans go to Mecca: it might be said with equal the next day. truth that, sooner or later, all

It could have something to do with the Butt & Oyster pub, which is one of the finest in England. Dan, who was new to it, described it as "a proper mad old place that's hard to get to, serving wonderful ale".

n the summer Pin Mill is swamped with people, including yachtsmen from as far afield as Holland, France, Belgium and the English south coast. In the Butt it's ten deep in the ber. Yet Dan and I had it all to ourselves. We reached our mooring in the dark after passing through Felixstowe, with its huge cranes and

yachtsmen drop their hooks at

container ships. Nutcracker, safely on her mooring, bobbed on the tide as we lit the oil lamps and the cabin heater, and waited for enough water to row ashore. After three pints of bitter by the open fire, and a hearty we talked about our

hopes for a cracking sail back

"It was frustrating but interesting - I quite liked it," said Dan philosophically. "I feel as if I am part of a novel - sailing through the fog not knowing where you're going. But what want now is to get some real

During a fitful sleep on board, we realised this was exactly what we would get. Nutcracker was bouncing around in increasingly choppy waters. Halyards on the mast clinked and cracked all night as the wind grew in strength, blowing the fog away. The early morning forecast spoke of a south-easterly force five increasing to six or seven ideal for driving the boat at speed against the tide.

As we set off with a reef in the mainsail and the jib partly rolled. Dan saw the Orwell estuary for the first time when the mist gradually lifted and we headed down the river and out into Harwich harbour.

In the approaches, a big cracker crashed and slid off the waves, steaming along at about seven knots through a gusting wind. We were getting regularly soaked, but it was

thrilling stuff.
For Dan this was the business. After going below to try to make two cups of coffee, almost scalding himself and throwing it all around the cabin floor, he emerged through the hatch. We're rounding Cape Horn now. aren't we?" he asked.

All the frustrations of the day before fell away as Nutcracker charged back past Walton, then Frinton, then Clacton. We had a clear view of them and didn't even bother to look at the compass.

As we turned in towards the Blackwater, we had the wind on our beam and the sun came out to welcome us. Nutcracker settled on to a gentle reach and we whizzed up against the tide under full sail past North Eagle buoy, the Coine Bar and the Bench Head until Bradwell nuclear power station came into view.

People have joked that, in the fog. you can find your way into Bradwell marina using a Geiger counter. Luckily we didn't need one as we made our way up the narrow channel in the dark and back into our benth.

Feather report

Secrets of the pecking order

BIRDS soon recover from the cold weather and, if it stays mild, their life can be quite agreeable as the days start to grow longer. There is food enough for the present, and increasing time to feed.

Green woodpeckers provide a good example. They like to eat ants best, and the most common view of them is as they fly up from a stretch of grass, and loop away like a blob of golden light into the

They are very good at finding and catching ants. Large anthills provide easy prey, but they also search for ants under the turf. They dig exploratory holes in a lawn with their long beaks, and when they find ants, they lick them up with their long, sticky tongues. They will take the eggs, the grubs and the insects.

If the ants run up their legs and on to their feathers, they shake them off by kicking their feet in the air. Even in snowy weather, they are good at delving beneath the snow and finding ants, though they may suffer when the ground is frozen solid.

They do not really peck wood very much. In the summer, they still collect ants from the leaves and branches of trees. They do sometimes extract beetles from rotten timber, but they peck at tree trunks mainly to excavate the holes in which they nest and roost. There is a record of one making holes in a beehive in cold weather, apparently attracted by the humming inside but it did not

actually eat the bees. In the winter they live solitary lives, earing and roosting alone. Sometimes they have a little

trunk, before they go into their roosting hole for the night.

But next month they will pair up again. In many cases. the same two birds will come together as last year, because they do not stray far from home. The burst of sharp. laughing cries that they make as they fly off will modulate laugh, which is the equivale: " of their song - and we shau have another sign that spring

is on the way. Incidentally, the flocks of waxwings that have been coming into Britain from Scandinavia in the past couple of weeks are also going to find life easy for a while. They feed on berries, and there are still plenty of those on the bushes. They particularly like cotoneasters - and that is where to look out for them.

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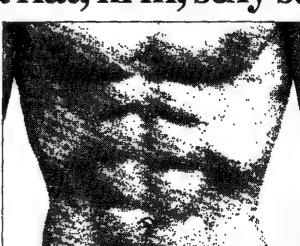
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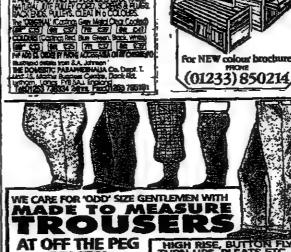
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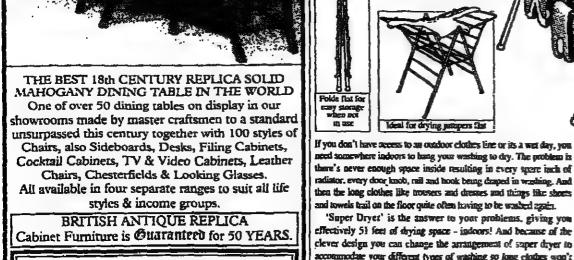
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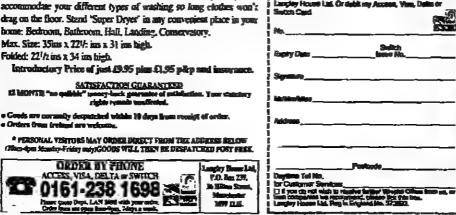
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SHOPPING

Well-cut suits are back in vogue. But a dressing down at a Jermyn Street tailor leaves Joseph Connolly with a rather frayed ego





Made to measure: John Lester says if the cutting is right, a suit should need only one fitting. Right: Andrew Yianni pieces it all togethe

My clothes encounter of the bespoke kind keys to the bespoke suit - that

magine you are standing in the darkish, woodpanelled and multi-mirrored interior of one of London's finest tailors — in my case. John Lester of Jermyn Street - and that said tailor is whipping around you with a measuring tape faster than the speed of light. He's calling out numbers to his note-taking assistant that presumably have some connection with parts of you that you never knew existed, and muttering a few abbreviations as well.

These are used not only for the sake of brevity but - more to the point - diplomacy. "DS." grunts the tailor — and

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A LIGHT .

he is reluctant to let you in on the meaning, but eventually confides that it is nothing more sinister than "dropped shoulder". Others are rather more telling. "HS" stands for "high shoulders", but actually means "no neck"; "VFT" stands for "very forward turnmy", ie, pot belly; and "VRB", is a "very round back" - for which read Quasimodo. Then there's "HW" and "VPB". "The first means 'hollow walst', " says John Lester, "and the latter 'very pronounced bot-tom', but they both come down to a huge backside that some-

how has to be concealed." And here we have one of the

which does not need to be concealed must be accentuated: waistlines raised and trimmed, shoulders evened up and strengthened, legs slimmed and elongated - it's PR for the body. It is also a pampering and addictive experience. Some men go to bespoke tailors because they are fed up traipsing around shops trying on standard

clothes that never fit, others because they see it as a rite of passage or a reward. But I suspect that most go because. despite the various visits for fittings (though these days many tailors will come to you) and the cost (from £900 to about £2,000), it is the least troublesome way of acquiring comfortable clothes that last for decades. Few ever again

choose cloth, we have a better idea about weight, texture. colour, feel. The measuring is important, but the cutting is the key. If the cutting is right. then even by the first fitting the suit fits," says Mr Lester. Every tailor needs a first class coat-maker, and in Mr

Preparatory stages: Andrew Yianni choosing one's cloth - the coat looks like nothing on earth, but as soon as it hits the

Lester's case it is 59-year-old

Andrew Yianni: he moulds,

teases and immaculately sews

shoulders there is no doubt about the lit. Wool and hair canvas has been sewn into the lapels so they keep their shape even when wer, and laptair a horsehair and fibre interlining - is stitched across the chest area and gives the drop of the coat a springiness that will not crease; cotton pockets are strengthened with heavy

have grown-up sons, but neither has taken on the mantle of fifth generation. Ten years ago, the future of fine tailoring looked grim but, with the rediscovery of the well-cut suit that actually fits and the rise of a younger breed of tailors

Irish linen: shoulderpads are

made from felt, and the whole

is held together by a bewilder-

ing network of basting cotton.

garment is taken to pieces,

recut and adjusted, resewn,

finished and lined. Similar

attention is paid to trousers

and waistcoat, and then all

buttonholes (including four on

either sleeve) are hand-sewn in

silk - as is the loop

behind one lapel, to

The result is as

perfect as an imperfect body should expect. "Savile Row is

the best," agrees

Peter Hutchinson -

another fourth-gen-

hold a flower.

After the fitting, the entire

Richard James, Mark Powell, Timothy Everest and Ozwald Boatengs, the future of one of Britain's proudest traditions looks set to do that most 1990s thing and re-invent itself.

Where to buy fine tailored suits

● John Lester at Harvie & Hudson, 96-97 Jermyn Street, St James's. London SWI (0171-930 2841).

Peter Hutchinson. The Tailor's Shop, Westow. York, YO6 NE (01653 618227).

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Fitting end: John Lester checks Joseph Connolly's suit for size. It is then dismantled and adjusted to produce the end result (above)



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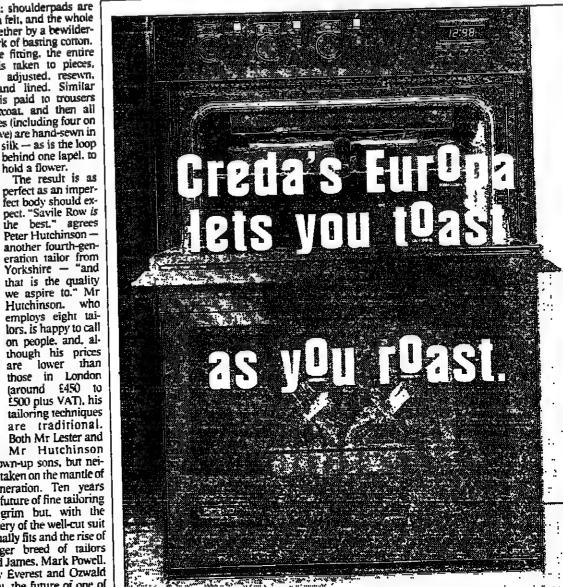
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How to make it a sellers' market

Pricing your house shrewdly is the best policy, writes Rachel Kelly

owhere are there more price drops and bargains on offer than in January's property market.

The current housing market may be the worst on record, judging by two statistics. House sales for 1995 will probably total 1.2 million (final figures are not yet available from the Central Statistical Office) - the second lowest since current records began in 1977. And prices fell overall by 1.4 per cent, according to the Halifax Building Society. Such figures mask far larger percentage price drops for some houses, especially at the top end of the market, say two leading agents, Savills and Knight Frank.

Dropping the asking price is often less effective than most sellers might imagine in wooing buyers, according to Simon Agace, from Winkworth. London's biggest agent. "We notice a definite bias from buyers for property new on the market. Property that has been on sale for a few months or more is seen as tainted."

Alison Dean, from Savills, agrees. "Cutting the price of a house is not something we necessarily encourage. In the sales someone might see a cashmere coat and think, 'It's been reduced. I have to have it', but that doesn't happen with houses." A price cut would have to be dramatic to affect its selling ability, she

says.
It is far better to put your house on the market at the right price in the first place. A survey by Black Horse Agencies confirms the estate agent's adage that the first offer made is often the best. The survey studied 1,500 transactions at 100 branches, and found that a house which sells within days of coming onto the market will usually get more than 95 per cent of its asking price. After 30 weeks, this falls to 90 per cent and after a year to 86 per

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lan Davies, Black Horse's regional operations director, says: "In this market, only a sensibly priced house will get close to its asking price and sell fast."

☐ HUNTBOURNE is a five-bedroom country house near Sevenoaks, Kent, with swimming pool and paddock. Savills was sell-ing it for £595,000 but has reduced it to £520,000. Alison Dean says: "Change in the seller's circumsauces have made him keener to move."

COCKFIELD Hall in Saffolk is a Grade I lis Tudor House, the price of which has been cut by Savil in Ipswich from £950,000 to £890,000. Ms Dean says: "The house was difficult to price because of its rarity.

☐ FOXTONS is selling a four-bedroom flat in Carlyle Mansions, Cheyoe Walk, with another agent fo £625,000 — now it is ent for £495.000. Peter Rollings



Heath Court in Essex is a 17th-century country house which has had its price reduced from £700,000 to £590,000. Mark Oliver, at the Ipswich office of Savills, says: "The seller had a very high expectation of the price to be achieved — which wasn't quite in line with the advice Savills gave; now, with the property under the £600,000 threshold, it is attracting interest."



Cariyle Mansions, Cheyne Walk cut by £130,000 to £495.000 book of sales of similar proper-

ty over the six months before

you sell. Were their houses in

better condition than yours?

Was their kitchen more mod-

ern? Did they have a better

designed roof extension? Such

details can make a difference

Peter Rollings is manager of Foxtons' office in South Ken-

sington, London. He says:

Always get two or three

agents in to view your house,

and ask for their evidence of

why they have chosen a partic-

of thousands of pounds.

price a house, and who is to blame when things go wrong - you or your agents? Ms Dean says: "Look at your house from a stranger's viewpoint and be as dispassionate as possible. Perhaps get a family member to give their honopinion. Because people love their homes it is easy to overlook the flaws. You have

to be realistic." The next step is to find comparables. Scour the local

papers and your estate agent's window. Try to keep a log-So how do you correctly

ular price. Avoid the agent vastly overprices the house in comparison with the others; if he's just doing it to get your business he won't be able to shift the property and will lose interest quickly.

If the agent proves apathetic or negative, sack him. Mr Rollings says. "It's only natural that an agent will get bored showing the same property day in, day out, without any sale, and loss of enthusiasm will only hinder matters further. It's an agent's job to be ambitious and enthusiastic." If the house hasn't sold within two or three months, then something is wrong, Mr Rollings says. The only variable you've got is the price.

least five per cent to make any He does emphasise, however, the need for balance. "Ultimately the agent must be ambitious for his client. Really, often there is not a very large gap between too much

You'll need to make a cut of at

and not enough." Patrick Ramsay is in charge of country houses at Knight Frank. He says: "Discuss the question of price openly with your agent. Sellers often think that their property is worth more than it actually is."

Philip Blanchard, of John D. Wood & Co's Winchester office, agrees that price drops are often because the owner has sought too optimistic a price in the first place.

Sales are lost because sellers refuse to accept the price suggested by the agent, Mr Ramsay says. "Try and work as a team. The closest teams believes presentation of the house is important. "First impressions are essential -

buyers buy houses in the first ten minutes of viewing."

The rules are familiar, but it amazes agents how few sellers adhere to them. Mr Ramsay recommends: "A neat, well-organised exterior, and a tidy warm and friendly interior. It you have a log fire, use it. Switching on lights makes sense at this time of year. Create an atmosphere that will appeal. Make sure children's bedrooms are relatively tidy

Don't overcrowd rooms with

furniture, it shrinks the room.

Redecorate blips if they spoil

ake sure your house gets top quality presenchures - a good picture with simple wording is best. Make sure the information is accurate, or it may lead to disputes at a later date. All these points.

obvious though they may be. can make a difference to the

sale. Mr Ramsay emphasises

the overall look. Don't, how-

ever, redecorate an entire

room so that it outshines the

rest of the house."

is going to bring the best coverage for your house, not just the one who's closest to your doorstep." Ultimately, if you have been dispassionate, chosen your agent with care, and agreed a

the need to select the right

agent. "Choose an agent who

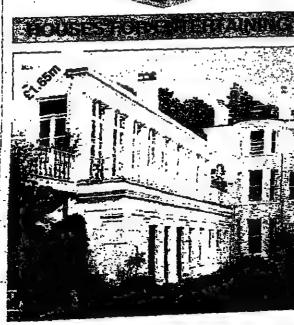
sensible price for your house. it should sell without a need for a price cut. Remember. sales figures may be the lowest for years, but more than a million people did manage to sell their house in 1995. This year, it could be you.





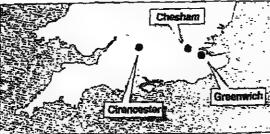






Hitsde House, Croom's Hill, Greenwich SE10. Grade II listed Georgian house with terraces in two thirds of an acre of gardens, bordaring masse with terreties of two amous or on each or governo, sources of governo, sources, sources kachen, office, utility area and cellars. Galleried drawing room/beliroom (448 7in x 17ft Sin), with full-length windows and polished wood floor. About £1 65m (Strutt & Parker, 0171-235 9959).





Siddington House, Cireno Immaculate Cotswold country house in 18 acres of garden and paddocks. Eight bedrooms, five bathrooms, three reception rooms, kitchen and staff flat. Converted barn/ententaining suite with vaulted cellings, bar, kitchen and cloakrooms. Heated swimming pool, two tennis courts, helicopter landing pad and hangar. About £1.15m (Knight Frank, 01285 659771).



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Pednor, Chesham. Grade II listed house in five acres of gardens, orchards and paddocks, in the Chitem Hills. Six bedrooms (all with Pednor House. Little Pednor, Chesham. Grade II listed house, toom, kitchen, utility room, playroom and study. Benqueting half (86tt x 34ft), with cak he suite before), three reception nooms, terrace room, breakfast noom, kitchen, utility room, playroom and study. Benqueting half (86tt x 34ft), with cak he suite before), three reception nooms, terrace room, breakfast noom, kitchen, utility room, playroom and study. Benqueting half (86tt x 34ft), with cak he suite before, utility room, playroom and study. Benqueting half (86tt x 34ft), with cak he suite before, utility room, playroom and study. Benqueting half (86tt x 34ft), with cak he suite before, utility room, playroom and study. Benqueting half (86tt x 34ft), with cak he suite before, utility room, playroom and study. Benqueting half (86tt x 34ft), with cak he suite before.

CHERYL TAYLOR



ST IVES, CORNWALL Exhibition of Paintings by Paul Feiler at the Tate Gallery St Ives

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Exhibition runs until April 21 The-Sun Ham-5pm LONDON WC2 Richard and Maria Cosway: Regency Artists of Taste and Fashion' at the National Portrait Gallery

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GARDENING

Designer water courses are the way this year to add charm to any type of garden. Stephen Anderton goes with the flow

Splash out with a licence to rill

he year of the rill is upon us. I say this not as a result of EU policy or the Chigeneral observation. At the moment, garden designers are having a field day with rills, those little water courses whose charm and fascination far exceed their surface

I can see why. Designer rills, whether sinuous and informal or rectilinear stone contructions, are a delightful method of pointing the way from A to B. You cannot help but go with the flow. They remind me of the rows of lights in the floor of aircraft gangways which point the way to the emergency exit.

Rills are a good way of making a significant water feature without the need for large volumes of water. If given a waterproof lining, they can be operated by a circulating pump in the same manner as a cascade in a rock garden, although the canalisation of a small stream is rather wonderful if you happen to

The place to see the rill of rills is at Hestercombe House in Somerset. There is a pair of rills, each running down the centre of a long. raised grass terrace, which was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens in the early years of the century. A generous strip of stone paving runs down either side of a water course, perhaps a foot across. Every now and then the paving gathers enough momentum to make a stone eddy, and it spirals off

alongside to form a tiny pool. The beauty of a formal water course like this is that the construction can be carefully detailed. Lutyens supported his edging stones on pillars of stacked slate so that they overhang the water, which might then appear to flow channel. The floor of the rill is made of slate on edge, laid across the direction of the rill, contrasting with the flow of the water.

Luryens's rill contains only a few inches of water, so you can see the texturing of the surface below. But the surface of the water is well below the paved edges and in shade. In another situation, you could make the water surface more open and level with the surround-

By making the water more prominent, a great deal can be done to make its passage interesting as it runs down a rill. It can be shallowly (or steeply) stepped from time to time, or narrowed and broadened to create turbulence. The bed can be coarsely textured, with anything from coloured pebbles to glass, to roughen the surface of the water and alter the tune of its flow. The sound of the rill should be part of the design, sweet as the first glass of Designer rills are nothing new.

At William Kent's 18th-century landscape garden at Rousham in Oxfordshire there is a fine example of an informal rill, which snakes along through Elysian woods and glades like a watery yellow brick road. Again, it is in a space large enough to be allowed to take a central course though the picture. In a smaller garden a careful choice must be made between what looks attractive and what is likely to break ankles. Where parties regularly overflow into town gardens, a rill across a lawn would achieve the



combe House, Somerset, was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. Unusually, this rill is planted. One of the finest rills around, in the sunken garden at Heste

same effect as an ankle-height razor wire. But, where there is enough room, why shouldn't the rill take centre stage? Think of Christopher Lloyd's one-brick-wide path which winds across the orchard at Great Dixter, a waterless rill if ever there was one. No doubt legions of planners from Brussels are already marching on Dixter and Rousham. ready to demand notices saying

"DANGER - RILL" or "DANGER Hölker Hall in Cumbria uses - PATH". One hopes that the

owners will give the planners ample opportunity to prove the risk Rills should be Jun, a discreet

and relaxed contrivance: a rill to follow the sweeping edge of a curved lawn perhaps; a rill trickling like an aqueduct along the top of a wall: or one which bifurcates to pass a natural boulder and passes on again as one

flights of garden steps, the water disappearing in a spiral with a noisy chartle, before passing under the landings and reappearing at a lower level. Perhaps you might make a spiral rill instead of a circular pond. Or a rill maze, perhaps, where the water can flow only through the one viable chan-

Unless you want to grow water plants, in a small garden a rill

water than a pond. The combination of a formal pool with rills leading to or from it can provide the best of both worlds. Rills manage to be at home in both formal and informal gardens by simply highlighting some element of the design, but using water instead of plants. Not surprisingly, you rarely

beauty of them is in their simplic-

mire coi

 Bring indoors frame pots of hyacinths and narcissi when the buds are just showing and put them in a cool room (50F/10C). Beware of walking on lawns hard with frost: blackened footsteps will take · Established fruit trees (excep stone fruits) may have dead and diseased wood cut out, together with

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GARDENING

Facing the wrong way and neglected for six years, one newly restored garden is open to the public

Nature constrained, not subdued

few yards from Rus-kin's View in Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria, gardens in England has been restored. This year the garden will be open to the public for the first time in its own right.
Set in Lakeland scenery
admired by Wordsworth. Turner and Ruskin, Church Brow Contage commands breathtaking views. Its east-facing garden slopes precipi-tously down to the river Lune.

and fells has been dramatically enhanced by a restoration scheme started in 1992. Appropriately, the philosophy and method of restoration has been achieved according to Ruskin's principle: "Nature constrained but not

The relationship between the

garden and the surrounding landscape of water, pasture

subdued. The Vivat Trust, an historic buildings preservation

the leasehold of Church Brow Cottage in 1992. The 1830s Gothic-style summerhouse at the centre of the site was restored for holiday lets in 1993. The garden, which had been neglected for six years, had run wild. The trees and shrubs had grown riotously. The original zig-zag pathways. essential on a slope of such severity, were impenetrable, and weeds were rampant.

Wendy Anderson, a local gardener, was the inspired choice to undertake the restoration. Coming from a family of Lake District gardeners, working with nature is instinctive. "This garden faces the wrong way, suffers from raging winds, there's no sunshine after 2pm, it has bad access. and you are up against the weeds." Within this challenging setting, she has applied

HOMES & GARDENS

lagher, a garden historian and local GP, to produce a new plan. His design distinguished between a formal Italianate upper terrace on a level with the summerhouse, and a transition, through a series of steep paths, to more natural growth at river level to lead the eye easily into the Lakeland landscape beyond.

Ms Anderson shared the desire to keep the atmosphere of a natural sanctuary, birds and insects included, in the bottom half of the garden. Dr Gallagher's extensive list for replanting, including the importation of three privets (standard Ligustrum japonicum) from Italy, has also

provided the start-'If the ing point for Mx Anderson's subseplants are sick, I

coddle

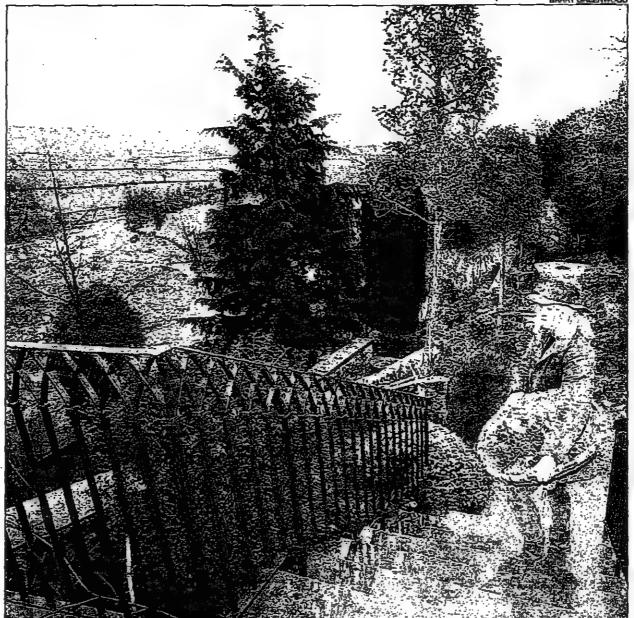
them'

quent work. the garden," says Ms Anderson, talking about the organic suppression of weeds and unwanted shrubs. "I would never use sons + in a garden. So much

appropriate materials for restoring the cottage, why shouldn't one take the same care with a garden? So I put down carpet to suppress weeds." Layers of carpet or newspapers and hav were laid on paths and beds for three months. If plants were worth saving they were replanted elsewhere. In other areas, especially on

paths, Ms Anderson has used a combination of layers of woven plastic (phormisol) and wood chippings. She repeatedly dug through the soil to attack the overpowering weed species. Despite the view that weed suppressors should be left for a couple of seasons at least, Ms Anderson's plan seems to have worked. She faced ground elder, dock, entirely organic methods.

The Vivat Trust also enlisted the help of Dr Rodney Galmore tree seedlings and, a



Wendy Anderson near Church Brow Cottage, Cumbria. The garden is one of the steepest in England

particular hate of hers, creeping buttercup.

"In some very steep, shady areas where ground elder was too invasive, I used yellow loosestrife. The ground elder couldn't catch its breath.

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ALL TYPES OF

Plants are like children. If they are sick, it worries me. 1 seaweed and comfrey. coddle or move them," Ms Anderson says. Tonnes of The formal upper terrace horse manure have been put onto the beds of the upper terrace, which were badly in

need of fertiliser. She also uses regular tonics of bonemeal.

now has two packed beds divided by a gravel walkway. They are full of fragrant plants such as sweet rocket, borage and the "everlasting" whiteflowered Anaphalis triplinervis. One of her favourites is mailow - Malva moschata with its rose-pink, saucershaped flowers. The three standard Ligustrum japonicum emphasise the architectural quality of the terrace. A strawberry tree (Arbutus andrachnoides). planted by the Prince of Wales in 1993, flourishes, Roses, such as 'Félicité Perpétue' and 'Ispahan', and holly (Pernyi) add to the formality.

The steepness of the garden has meant that, away from the terracing, Ms Anderson has used young plants, so that their roots can adapt to the conditions. Because of the gradient, the stony soil is welldrained. It was assumed that the soil at river level would be damp and boggy. Ms Anderson says not The gunnera that I planted always needs extra watering." She has built a wooden stockade to establish a new bed which is the site for a Rosa 'Cerise Bouquet' and a bushy-headed Clerodendrum

trichotomum whose fragrant white flowers are followed by decorative blue berries. A circular route through the woodland area using pine log steps has increased access to the bottom part of the garden. Under the fern-like leaves of a Sorbus vilmorinii and a magnificent example of the tree Cornus kousa var. chinensis. which bears strawberry-like fruits, country plants such as campions, meadowsweet and foxgloves flourish. In the riverlevel garden, heavy with rho-

dodendrons and azaleas, Japanese anemones, dalfodils, hellebores and endless variet-

ies of geranium shelter. A nut walk is planned among the mature trees and solid evergreens. A quickthorn hedge. interplanted with wild rose and honeysuckle, marks the southern boundary of the garden. Beyond is a manicured orchard of apple trees. The restoration programme at

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

I have an 11-year-old flowering cherry tree which produces lots of fruit. Unfortunately the bark is split in various places on the trunk, and the leaves bear dark spots, It is obviously diseased, but I would hate to cut it down. — Mrs E. M. Suryn, Kingston upon Thames. southwest London.

Your tree is affected by A bacterial canker, which can cause limbs to die back in severe infections. It is not easy to control on large trees. The disease makes spots on the leaves in summer, and then transfers to the bark via vounds and leaf scars in autumn and winter. Control, in so far as it is effective, is by spraying the leaves with Bordeaux mixture in spring to control spotting, and again in August and October. If your tree is as badly affected as it sounds, removal may be simpler than control.

Some years ago i bert, Corylus maxima 'Purpurea', which flourished until I had to move it. Since then it has become a leggy and dull green hedgerow hazel. is this shrub prone to reversion? - Mr D. Shiels, Gloucester.

No. it does not revert but, where light is insufficient, is becomes a dreary greenish purple. Perhaps you have put it in too much shade? The legginess suggests it. Try it in more light, and cut it down to the ground to grow again. The colour of the new shoots should be spectacularly rosy purple. As a rule of thumb, all purple shrubs should be grown in full light if they are to retain their colouring properly.

I was given a plant of Osteospermum

'Whirligig' in July which established well in the garden but only got round to flowering in October as the frosts arrived. I have taken cuttings for next year, but how should ! ensure the flowers come Denham, Wembley, northwest London.

A This is a most attractive osterospermum, with daisy flowers whose individual rays are crimped in the middle. It is, unfortunately, a short-day plant. and it flowers more willingly in the spring and autumn. in high summer it rests. There are other osteospermums which do this too; notably the vibrantly coloured Tresco Purple. Both are delightful flowers, but plant them where they are required to perform only at the end of the season. You do right to take cuttings. This variety is far from hardy. whereas Osteospermum jucundum and 'Lady Lei-trim' withstand all but the worst winters out of doors.

gardening problems answered should write to: Garden An-9XN. We regret that few per sonal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal respon-sibility. The Times regrets that ters eannot be returned.

Church Brow was recognised

last year by a national Civic Trust award. Ruskin would surely have approved. In 1875 he wrote: "The valley of the Lune in Kirby is one of the loveliest scenes in England and therefore the world."

SOPHIE WHITE

Ms Anderson uses layers of carpet to kill weeds

FACT BOX

■ In 1996, Church Brow Cottage will be open to the public on June 15 and 16, and by appointment with the Vivat Trust (0171-930 2212: fax: 0171-930 2295). Church Brow Cottage can be rented for £310-£355 per week

 Information on organic gardening: Henry Doubleday Research Association. Ryton Gardens, Coventry CVS 3LG (01203 303517).

 Gardener and designer Wendy Anderson can be contacted at Angel Conage, 4 Vicarage Lane. Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria

When it comes to the crunch

THERE'S nothing to beat the texture of a well laid and well maintained gravel path, scrunching underfoot like a layer of cornflakes. There is always the temptation to turn slowly on one's heel, or the ball of the foot, and listen to the grains of stone grinding. But the scrunch factor depends entirely on the thickness of the gravel, the size of the stones, and what they are laid on. Choose these carefully

and you should get what you want.
Gravel paths or drives with a very thick layer of loose gravel on top, perhaps 1-2in. take a lot of maintenance. The idea of a thick luxurious layer may be appealing. but it always bears the marks and channels of the last pair of feet or tyres: it needs frequent raking to make it look good; and it moves too much to be comfortable when you walk on it. This is the thickness of gravel which you could sculpt and texture in a Japanese garden. for ornament.

Half art inch of loose gravel is usually plenty, as long as it is on a hard base. It is little-enough not to be too marked by use. and sufficient to look and sound an adequate covering. If the base is the same colour as the gravel, you can sometimes get away with less than half an inch, using a fine gravel. But beware of trying to cover up a base of one colour with a gravel of another. Bits of the base will rise to the surface, and, of course, skid marks will show the colour of the lower layer. Tarmac is especially difficult to hide with gravel, and is better retnoved. Alternatively it can be sprayed with tar and a layer of the new colour rolled well in, before a loose top dressing or gravel is applied.

The ideal base for gravel is a 6in layer of a heavier version of the same colour some, rolled and compressed until hard. This base material will comprise stones The secret of a good gravel path is

in its foundations

perhaps 2-3inācross, but it will also contain every size down to dust. This helps the material to bind together to form a solid layer. The better the base preparation, the less problem there will be with weeds. Hoggin is the name often given to this material. On top of this goes the surface gravel. Be sure you know the composition of the gravel you buy. Some will contain powdered stone as well as particles up to the official size, say omm or 10mm. Or it can be top-size particles alone. Gravel including dust will set somewhat after it has been laid, and give a firmer, smoother surface, but it will also be dirrier in wet weather, and the dust will rise in clouds in dry, windy weather, Single-size gravel will be cleaner and stay looser, if that is what is required. On the down side, it tends to wash away more

easily on slopes. There are times when a coarser gravel can be more attractive. A couple of years ago I gravelled the area under a new pergola in my garden. The house is in countryside in the middle of nowhere and did not want anything smart or sophisticated. Finally I chose a river gravel, of rounded stones, from 2in-3in down to about lin. The colours were a mixture of browns and beige. In a space contained by wall and lawn, where the gravel cannot move sideways, it does not shift underfoot even in a 9in layer. And there has not been a weed to be seen; it is effectively a stone mulch. Not even sycamores manage to germinate in it, and

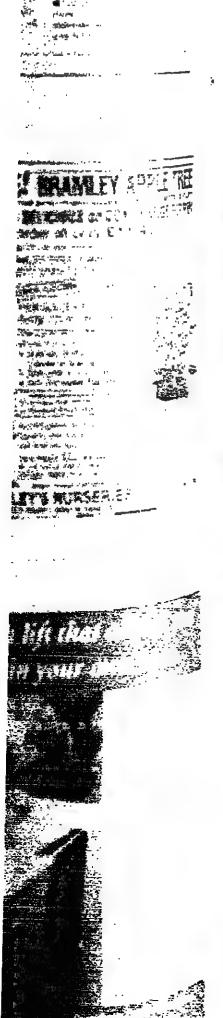
there is a tree right behind. I put down the same gravel where my car stands, on the basis that it is better not to introduce more types of hard surface into a garden than is necessary. It helps to unify it. It is also cheaper to use one material, as small quantities come much more expensive than larger ones.

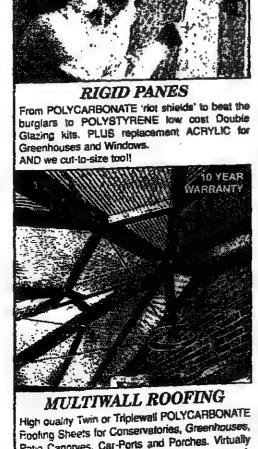
If you think you can use a few tonnes of gravel rather than a few bags tand a few tonnes is only a heap the size of Mini), see what your nearest quarry can offer. Nearest is almost always cheapest with gravel, since so much of the final cost is transport. Visit the quarry perhaps they are exciting places - and look at colours; decide between sharp, crushed gravels or rounded, river gravels. Be wary of expensive gravels tailor-made for landscaping, which can be three times the price of almost identical products intended for construction use.

IF YOU work out what volume you need (multiply the depth by the area), the quarry will tell you how many tonnes are required. Do ask for a lorry small enough to fit your driveway. When my river gravel came, the turn was too tight and the driver had to drop it in the gateway. I had ordered six tonnes, enough to move with a barrow in a couple of hours. The driver pulled the lever, and the lorry disgorged, and disgorged and disgorged! "You're lucky mate." he grinned. "There must be ten tonnes there and you're only paying for six. The quarry chute's not

accurate enough for small quantities." The prouble was, my car was the wrong side of the heap, and I had two children to collect from school in an hour. I had a

STEPHEN ANDERTON





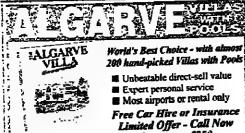
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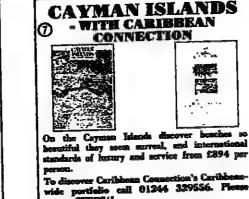
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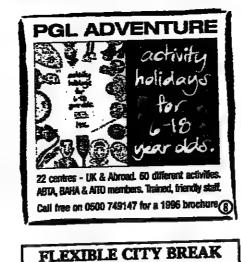


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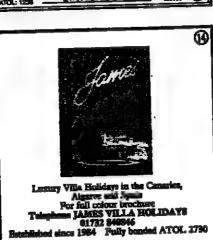


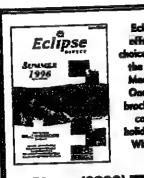


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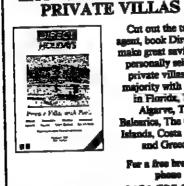
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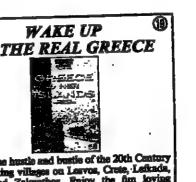


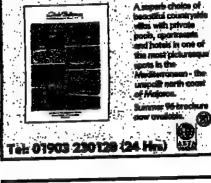
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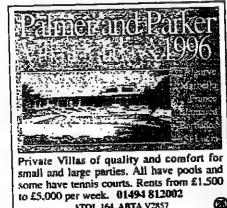


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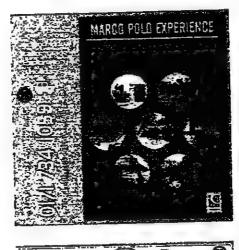


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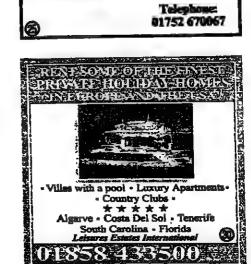


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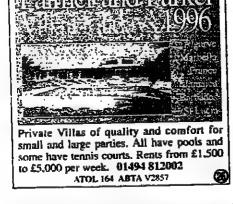








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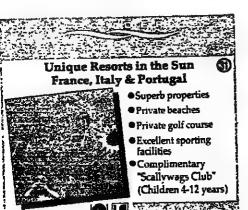
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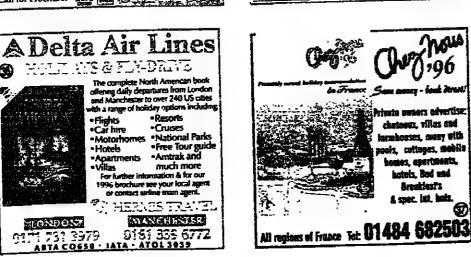
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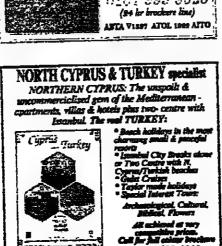






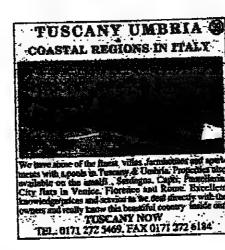


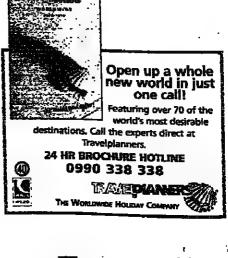


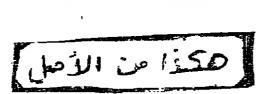


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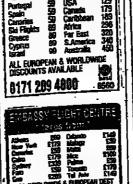




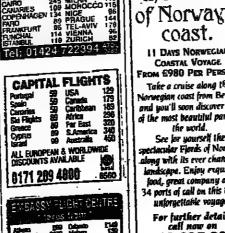
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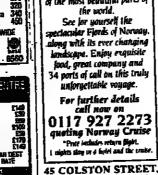
















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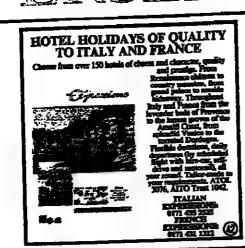
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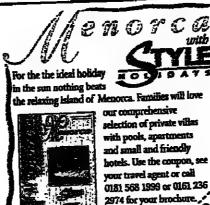
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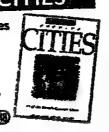
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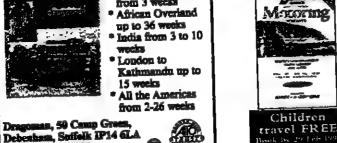
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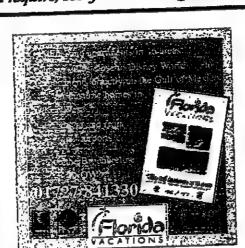
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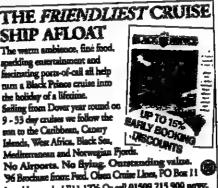
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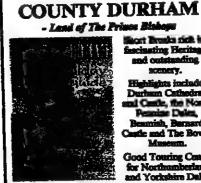
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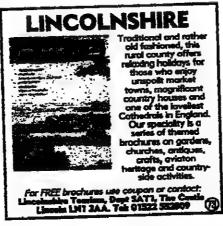
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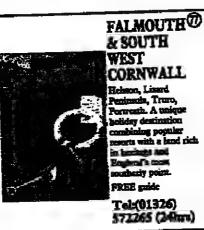


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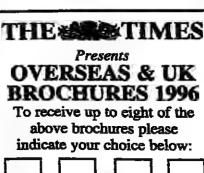


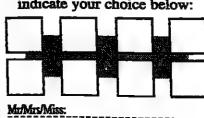
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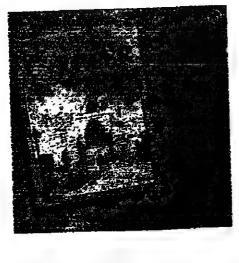
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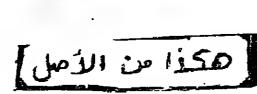


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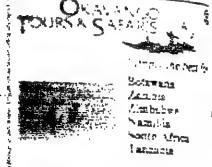


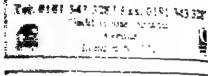
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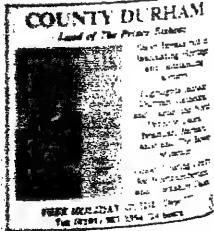
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by Raymond Keene

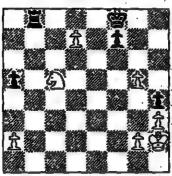
CHES

HERE are the answers to the

Christmas quiz Position I

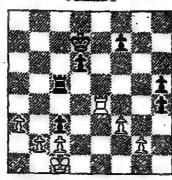
In this position, White has sacrificed a piece for an attack but it now looks as if he has run out of steam. What is the best way for White to break the deadlock and crash through against the black king?

Solution: 1 Rf6+ gd6 2 gd6+ Kh5 3 Qh3+ Kg5 4 Rf1 Qd7 and now the problem move 5 Rf4 is the fastest way to mate though 5 Qg3+ followed by Rf4 also does the trick. Position 2

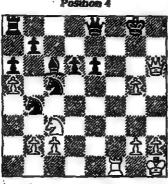


This game created a sensation in the summer when the young Dutch Grandmaster Jeroen Piket defeated the world champion, Garry Kasparov. By this stage Kasparov had aiready resigned the game. What was the winning coup that he

Solution: 1 Nb7 Ke7 2 d8/O+ Rxd8 3 Nxd8 Kxd8 4 g3 with a winning king and pawn andgame



Solution: 1 b4 creating two connected passed pawns gives excellent winning chances. In the game Anand played 1 Rxh4 when Black held on for a draw.



Here White has sacrificed two pieces to proceed with his attack against the black king.

Solution: 1 Rf6 is the cleanest kill. for example 1 ... Rc8 2 Rg6+ Qxg6 3 Qxg6+ Kh8 4 Qh6+ Kg8 5 g6 Rc7 6 Qh4 threatening both Qd8+ and Qxb4 and if 6 ... Rg7 7 Qd8 is mate. From the diagram position White can also play I go Qe7 2 Rf7, but it is far more laborious.

The winner of the Christmas Winning Move puzzle and six magnums of Most and Chandon champagne is Dr H.G. AnSimon of Frimshaw, Surrey. The winner of the Christmas quiz is A. Jennings of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. The runners-up will shortly be receiving prize copies of my book about the world championship, Kasparov v. Short.

game Smyslov - Kosten, Hastings Switten Coldfield; T and D Rollins, Premier 1988. Hastings always provides opportunities for British players to challenge the greats. Here we see Tony Kosten about to play a winning combination against ex-world champion Vassily Smyslov. Black to move. Send your answers on a postcard to The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer

will be published next Saturday. Last week's solution: Nf6

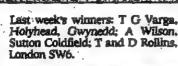
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PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon, above. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption,

The caption will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Carnoon caption (91), Weekend Games Page, The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XX

The editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, January 17.





My husband wears the trousers in this house - behind his apron, of course"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Maurice Taylor of Shrewsbury



THE METCHNIEGFF MOVEMENT.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard WHACKO a. Caning at Charterhouseb. Bully beef

c. Excellent SETTECENTO a. The 18th century b. The Florentine aristocracy c. A 60-gun galley

SEKT a. An evangelical sect b. A freelance band German champagne WILLWILL

a. A Rocky Mountain wind b. A female ghost c. An orange shrub

Answers on page 11

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THIS is a hand from the 1995 Macallan International Pairs. What contract would you like to be in on the North-South cards?

North-South game IMP's 4AK 104

TAS **• 10 AK10984** 3 **♠Q52** ♥KJ86

AKJ83 +0

Contract: 7NT by South

You have ten tricks in aces kings and queens, and if the clubs come in (about 54 per cent), 7NT is there in top tricks. If the clubs don't divide, you need favourable lies in the other suits, but I think the chances there add up to more than enough to make a grand slam worth bidding. At IMP scoring you only need about a 57 per cent chance.

How would you play 7NT on a club lead? Best is to win in hand, and play queen and ace of spades. Then test the clubs, throwing t diamond and a spade from hand. East turns out to hold the guarded iack of clubs and a doubleton jack of spaces.

You now have only 11 top tricks. You need one red finesse to make the twelfth, and a squeeze for the thirteenth. It is a toss-up which red queen you should assume East

ty. This offers two top prizes

holds. However, correct technique is to cash two top cards in one red suit before returning to dummy to take the two spade winners. Then you take the finesse in the other red-suit and hope East has been

Two declarers arrived at the position above after testing clubs. but they both misplayed when they took the diamond finesse without cashing their outside winners first: The finesse won but the entries had been removed for the squeeze. The full hand was:

+AK104 FAS 10 #AK10984 2N. #J7 ₩ E ₹743 • Q974 • J653 ♥Q1052 ♦652 □ 6 2 **♥KJBB +AKJ89**

+ Q

Had the declarers cashed ace and king of hearts before playing off the spades, in the four-card ending East would have been squeezed he would not have been able to keep both the jack of clubs and four

 The 1996 Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship, in association with The Times and The Sunday Times, will be played at The White House Hotel, Albany Street, London NWI, on January 24, 25 and 26. Tickets from The Macallan Box Office, 31 Queens Road, Mortlake, London SW H 8PH. For information, telephone 0181-878 5844.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

ONE of Channel 4's longest run-ning successes, which has been around since the station first went on air, is a humble afternoon quiz series. Despite costlier competition, the word and number game Countdown, hosted by Richard Whitely. has constantly featured in the station's top ten over the years.

As readers who played the Countdown game in The Times in 1994 will know, it is simple enough. Two contestants select random consonants and vowels then, as the Countdown clock quickly ticks down to its irritatingly catchy jingle, they must make the longest valid word possible. Alternatively. in another round, they must incorporate selected numbers to arrive at a randomly generated total.

Because of its time-slot, the quiz has proved a cult hit with university students. Now, instead of playing along at home, you can square up to the game for yourself. The first of three PC versions of Countdown has been developed by Lockton Software for DOS, and is on floppy disc and CD-Rom.

You can play against the computer or a human player. The game has three levels and both practice and competition modes. In keeping

Block school's reverse and bounce back (7)

potentate (10)

yields (8)

The soul guides countrymen (6)

Absolute competitor (5)

11 ARIAN (Asian, ruiss)

serge, anus)

14 TER(A)I (hidden)

(ci,rev+reducas

DOMES (homes, daves)

PINNA (pirmy, pinta)

CO(A)L-S(A)CK (amag)

KINEM(A)S (kine ins)

28 CORTINA (2013g) - TINA

29 G(A)D(A)BOUT (bd, rev in

32 RESORB < BORERS (bores

39 ALLOY (allow, alley) 40 MICHE - CHIME (2 mogs)

42 PULSATION - PLATINOUS

41 RIDE « DIRE (2 mngs)

mund r)

5 ENC(A)SH (en. c. sh)

RETSINA < NASTIER (NAS,

26 CORONAS (coronachs, minus

GALAGES (garages, galagos)

20 BEVIN (Levin. begin)

chi — RONA

Support's lacking for the foundation (4)

Material once thrust into grip, note (12)

Individual type? Dredging-box has no trademark (S)

Paper replaces England's leader in hunt for minor

Time to drink tea — a traditional longing (6)
Racy diarist (no saint) spoke more than once (5)

Jazz musicians approve about former partner's come-

Wad stuffed with money? It's my job to optimise stock

Germany's European backing, binerly regretted (4)

You and me, united, with endless beverage - drink (5) Dropping tax to shoo away bankrupicy — it sounds meaningless (4)

with the style of the show, the game has a garish studio clock and that tune, as well as a Dictionary Corner where obscure words are defined and a numbers genius shows where your maths could be improved.

Also in the Countdown pipeline are two add-on variations. One will let you play against past champions in the games used in the final: the other will let you test your word power using a Prench, Spanish or German dictionary. A more modest budget

title, which offers simple word and number games, is Cosmi's 5 Games compendium for Windows. In Spell Master you are presented with up to 15 letters with which to create words of either four or five letters against the clock.

Symical is a mathematical game of logic featuring international flags of varying values. Equations must be solved by deducing the value of the flags. Crib is a faithful version of the six-card game, in which two players battle it out to



Whitely's Countdown comes to the PC

get 121 points first. The last two are Memory Master, a picture-pairing challenge, and The Cube, an adaptation of the Eighties cube craze matching colour faces on six sides.

A reminder that the countdown is underway for our first competition of the year, Cyberspace Twen-

by Tim Wapshott of Canon BJC-70 colour bubble jet printers, worth around £250. Our winners, plus ten runners up, will also receive Brøderbund's Kids Pix Studio on CD-Rom, which crackles with creativ-To enter you must predict three key events for the year; serious or humorous and of a personal, national or international nature. You should explain your reasons for your forecasts with clarity. The competition is open to

all ages and you must include your name, age, address and home telephone number. Entries should arrive by midnight on January 23 and be serff to: Cyberspace Twenty, Computer Games and Pastimes, Weekend, The

Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN. You may also fax entries on 0171-729 6791. Illegible entries will be disqualified and the judges will not enter into correspondence.

Finally, another new title exploring words and numbers is Sierra's multimedia gem aimed at children aged seven and eight (Key Stage 2).

English and Maths is a neatly crafted interactive journey hosted by a friendly alien character called Adi. The title comes on two discs. The first is more fun-oriented and set in Adi's house, a silly place with crazy pets and game diversions. The second disc takes users to Adi's College of Knowledge, where the real work begins with a quiz-format approach to English and maths and 1,500 questions based on the National Curriculum. The subjects tested include spelling, writing, reading and language plus numbers, computations, measuring, patterns and algebra.

Correct answers are rewarded with appearances by a cockerel and bright sound effects. After each exercise parents can call up a score screen to learn where children are excelling or falling behind and in need of encouragement. There are also animated lessons, multimedia presentations and a creativity toolbox in which children can make their own multimedia presentations or try out their improved word-power by keeping a journal.

"What does Crustimoney Proseedcake mean?" said Pooh. "For I am a Bear of Very Little Brain, and long words Bother me."

10

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD No. 3340: A Colour Symphony by Bandmaster

33 One of us weaves a form of heartless origami (6)

Dictator embraces woman — it's probably meaningless (7)

With no financial feel, girl expresses hesitation (4) Safety administration takes friend around plant (5) Non-stick design device makes chutes unfur! fast (6)

Fish disease makes tail of bonito harden on the outside

Touchy diplomacy I found talse with the French (7) Exotic trail meandering in the heart of Macao (6)

34 Cross look given by "naturalist" author [4]

Gazeway - one with height in from (5)

Quietly thrust fire dog down (6)

Radio translator, golden girl (7)

Bear cold, ascetic arrangement (5)

29 A grand lady, albeit aristocratic (4)

31 Clothworker, we hear, dyed tissue (4)

Note two-way insurance for friar (5)

King, maybe, to enter score royally (4)

Plant held by mining man is edetwelss (5)

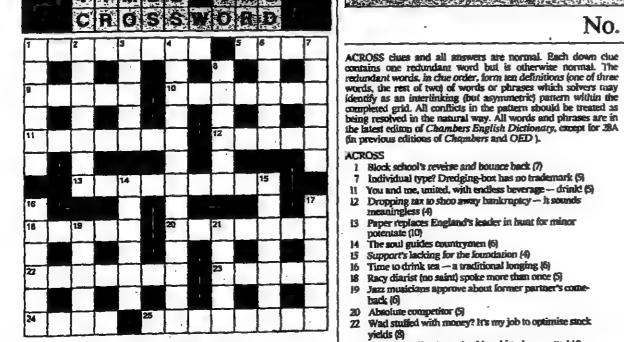
Acute singer/acress, dear to the French (4) Fish infection has reduced fish around river (5)

Yawning seal marring entertaining shows (7)
Maud's non-unionised working here (5)

"Little Gold God" -- employment for writer (6)

Churchman learned about Welsh minister 69

Plant - fine before driving rain - half's gone (4)



No 677

ACROSS 1 Torrent of criticism

5 Sink stopper (4) 9 RU formation; mêlée

10 Rough-skinned pear (7)

11 Stalemate (7) 12 Nottingham river (5) 13 24 hours ago (9) 18 Garden-pest insect (5)

20 A spendthrift (7) 22 Professional, personal

colleague (7) 23 With mouth open (5) 24 Cheese skin (4)

25 Close (to) (S) MUNOSS: 5 Up and running 8 Emblem 9 Renown 10 Nash 12 Heragon SOLUTION TO NO 676 14 Recover 15 Kern 17 Sveite 18 Exhale 20 Repercussion
DOWN: 1 Outmanocuvre 2 Pail 3 Quarter 4 Immdate 6 Dome
7 Newfoundland 11 Shoulder 13 Defence 16 Zeus 19 Hall

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DOWN 1 Vaporise/condense (to

purify) (6)

2 Wither through disuse (7) 3 Rome's co-founder, storytelling Uncle (5)

4 A. Huxley horrible future novel (5,3,5) 6 Holiday; depart (5) 7 Development, increase (6)

8 Customary (poer) (6) 14 Short track off main-line (6) 15 An amount (of material): use of (cattle) space (7)

16 Hinder; basket (6) 17 Flowing easily (6) 21 La -, Milan opera-house

19 A Great Lake (5) 15)

TIMES WORLD ATLASES. 9th Coruprehensive Edition 1885, 7th Consiste Edition 1845 and Farrely Edition 17.99, Reference Edition 182.99, Compact Edition 18.99, Mini 2nd Farrely Edition 18.99 ALSO The Tunes World History (PB) 183. Pucket, Edition 18.99 ALSO The Tunes World History (PB) 183. Concess TIMES THEMATIC ATLASES: The Times Atlas of World History (HB) 1840, Compact Edition (PB) 18.99, The Times Atlas of European Edition (PB) 18.99, The Times Atlas of European History (HB) 125. The Times Atlas of Archaeology (HB) 186. The

Send changes with order payable to Akoon Ltd 51 Manor Lane. Lundon SEI3 5QW. Delivery to 8 days. Tel. 0161-352 4575 (28trs) No credit cards.

32. When Pope errs, forgetting work, am I the result? (6) Solution to No. 3337: Christmas Cards by Smokey PALISADOES (AI (Capone) in Pisa, doesj — LISA 8 CED(A)R (hidden)

PADLISADESCEDR ARIANESTRANGES DISSENTERRIERI DOMESPINNALIMA OMARTENBOBEVIN COLSCKGALAGESU KINEMSERONACOS CTINACRCGDBOUT NRETSINARESORB ENGSHOTRROTSSL 12 ESTRANGES - SERGEANTS 13 DISSDENTER - TIREDNESS BDEUALLOYMICHE
RIDENPULSATION
KENENELLDSENNA
ERINASVERASETE

30

(Lann in anag) 43 KENNELLED (ken, LL in need) - NELL SENNA (senza, herma)

46 ASSEVERATE (as, sever, and -VERA PADDOCK (padiock, haddock) DISMAL (disrusy, distal) LASERS (lagers, losers)

45 ERIN (eric. grin)

ASTRINGENT (agent round Striatelt — INGE 6 ERR(A)ND (RR in end) 7 SARABAND (arab in sand) -

TIMES (2 mings) - INES

8 CANTLE (anagless I)
9 DERMIS (kermis, derris) 10 RUSSIAN (cf Prussian) -16 PE(A)KS (skep,rev) 17 IVECO - VOICE (o in vice) 18 MOTT < OMIT (MLI in OT)

NIECE (piece,nieve) 25 MANNA-ASH (man, Nash round a) -- ANNA QURS - SOUR (so, middle of CIA)NEBR(A)KE (anne of

Becker round ni 29 G(A)RRY(A) (GR on ty) 30 TENABLE (anag) - ENA R(A)NDIER (RN. + amag) 33 SIAJTI(ATTES (rev of E in in SS) 34 OSCINE - CONTES (i.e. in CONS

36 ENSUE (en suite, mimos it) -

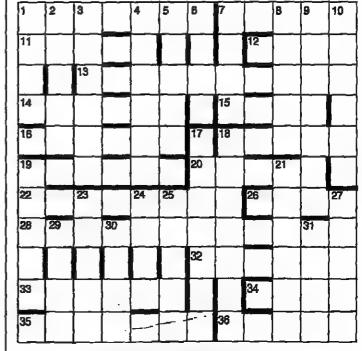
38 OMASA - SAMOA (SA mon)

37 OLPES - SLOPE (2 mnes)

-CAROL

BARCAROLLE (bar. carolle(r))

The winner of the Christmas Listener crossword and six magnums of Most and Chandon is Martin Renshaw of Swindon. Wilshire. The runners-up are Jeff Dale of Abingdon, Oxfordshire and David Crooks of Glasgow.



LISTENER CROSSWORD No. 3340

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Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No. 3340, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, January 25.

The winner will receive The Cambridge Encyclopedia, the most up-to-date and comprehensive one-volume encyclopedia available, with over 30,000 entries. The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language, a highly illustrated format embracing every aspect of the English language in one volume; and The Cambridge Guide to Literature, covering all the major writers and movements in literature written as English up to the present. Two runners-up will receive The Cambridge Guide to Literature.



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faid another good thing



ige banks - I just didn't want the hassie. In the end I spoke to First Direct, because like me they

I found the freephone number in a press ad, called it and amazingly they took my details in about ten minutes.

m in the post for me to sign and after sorting my security details, my account was open. I got a Welcome Pack,

Direct Card, together with some forms to make moving things like my standing orders and salary really smooth.

the card to get cash from the machine in the high street... okay I confess, it's good to be with a bank I can believe in.



هكذا من الأصل



High-speed history of the daring girl racers Page 7



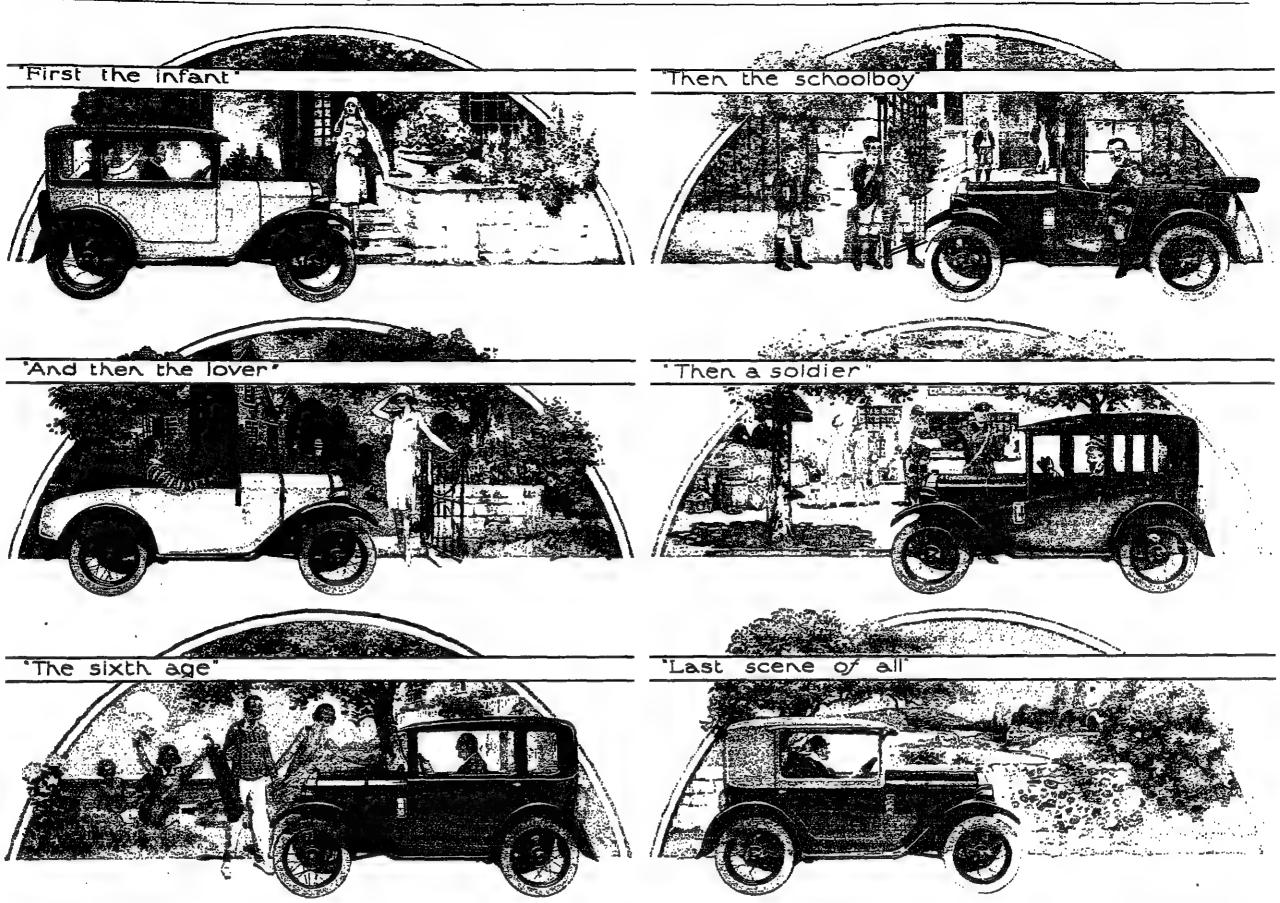
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Page 10



SATURDAY JANUARY 13 1996

Britain's car industry is 100 years old. Kevin Eason looks in the rear-view mirror and at the road ahead



Trom tottering, wideeyed infancy to raging, powerful maturity ... and then weakened, gasping dotage. Adopting Shakespeare's description of the seven ages of man from As You Like It for his advertising. Herbert Austin could not have known how close he was to charting the history of the car.

Britain's motor industry was founded 100 years ago tomorrow, when the Daimler Motor Company was incorpo-rated to make the new-fangled horseless carriages. Soon the car business was among the biggest and most powerful, with machines pouring from assembly lines to feed a world desperate for the freedom and independence that the internal

combustion engine offered. By the Fifties, Britain was world leader, exporting more cars than any other nation, including the US, and marques such as Austin and Morris, Jaguar, Riley, Wolse-ley, Singer, Humber, Standard. Sunbeam, Hillman, Triumph, Vauxhall and Rover were household names.



rescues and huge government For all its problems -marked this week by road protestors on the Newbury

bypass - the car has given vast numbers of ordinary people the chance to travel easily and relatively cheaply in ways that previous genera-tions would barely have been able to understand.

Seventies and Eighties will be

remembered as decades of

bankruptcy and closure, of

Working-class children, who would not have recognised a cow, were piled into the family runabout on a Sunday for a tour around the



The Rover 200: far beyond the original British Daimler

country lanes where they could stare over the blur of the hedgetops at grazing animals; mum and dad filled the car with children and buckets and spades and trundled off to the seaside for a day of candy floss and a donkey ride on the sand.

In the first age of the car, the pioneers could not have visualised what they were starting. Their cars were puttering - and deeply unreliable - engines on wheels with uncertain brakes and as much comfort as a bed of nails.

EVENTS OF THE CENTENARY

THE YEAR starts with a service in Coventry Cathedral on Wednesday, in which historic cars will be blessed. Plus: Cars of the Century exhibition at Coventry's Museum of British Transport until February 29.

• Celebration of Wolseley now at the Heritage Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire. ● Victorian Motoring Extravaganza at the National Motor

Museum, Beaulieu, from May 4 to 6. • Rally of 200 historic cars, from Edinburgh, stopping at

stately homes, to Stratford-upon-Avon, from June 14 to 23. Retrocar 96, cavalcade of every British car made, at National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham on July 27/28.

Gottlieb Daimler would marvel at the machines we now take for granted with their soft-suspensioned, air-condithey are foreign-owned, from Ford, the oldest immigrant, to tioned luxury, strength and

security - but also wonder

Once dozens of names were

where everyone has gone.

churning out cars; now there are only a handful of mass manufacturers in the UK. And

Vauxhall -- owned by General

Motors since the Twenties -

and Peugeot, which took over

Group via Chrysler, plus the Japanese — Honda, Toyota

and Nissan.

Even Rover, whose history goes back to the safety bicycle launched by the Starley family in 1885, could not make it into the 21st century as an independent UK manufacturer. It is now owned by BMW of Germany - a company that began making cars by manufacturing a model under li-cence from Herbert Austin. That was when Austin was one of the world's biggest car names, selling technology that helped the Japanese motor industry get under way and sending its cars all over the

Commonwealth and beyond. From the same factory at Longbridge in 8irmingham which poured out Austin Sevens now comes the new generation, the Rover 200, a clever

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little hatchback with 20 or 30 times the power of the original

British Dalmier.
But this is the seventh age which, by Shakespeare's definition, is dotage. Does that mean the Rover 200 and its generation are nearing the end of the 100-year-old line? The joining of the circle in which the machine that was once man's liberator has now become his termenter, creating pollution, congestion and

envy, seems complete. But that does not take into account the ingenuity of the industry, exemplified by those pioneers who, 100 years ago, adapted skills learnt making sewing machines and bicycles into manufacturing a machine that many of them had never even seen before, let alone driven. This is the time for fresh ideas and innovations to find cars for a future which could last another 100 years.

CENTENARY ISSUE Pages 2, 3, 5 and 7

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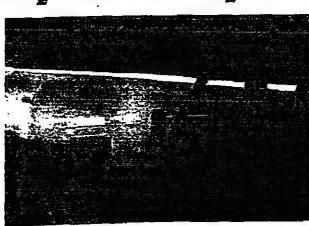
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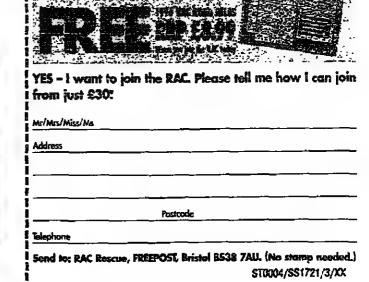
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One hundred years ago, the man with the red flag took his last steps ...

A century of the horseless traveller

Motoring Editor Kevin Eason looks back at triumphs and failures since

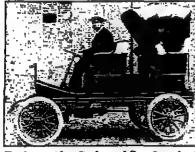
Daimler began an historic revolution

126-1966

January 14, 1896 Incorporation of the Daimler Motor Syndicate to manufacture

1896 Thirty-year-old law restricting speed of motor vehicles to 4ruph and requiring a man to walk in front carrying a red flag ends; new 20mph limit. First London to Brighton run to commemorate change in law. Henry Ford builds first car. 1897 Austin makes first car for Wolseley.

First Lanchester and first factory-made Daimler appear. Henry Sturmey, editor of The Autocar, completes first Land's End to John o'Groats journey. Lanchester brothers start building cars, Frederick Simms founds the Automobile Club of Great Britain and Ireland, later the RAC. 1898 First world land speed record of 1899 First fatalities in a car accident when E.R. Sewell is demonstrating a Daimler. Rear wheels collapse going downhill under heavy braking at Harrow-on-the-Hill, London. First four-wheel Humber appears and Fiat and Renault founded. John Scott-Montagu shows off his Daim-



Designer Alex Craig and first Standard

1900 First Napier car. First recorded fine for drink-driving of £1 on man named Kelly in Dublin for driving "furiously". 1901 Wolseley and Argyll companies start carmaking. Daimler in Germany adopts Mercedes name after the daughter of Emil Janetzky, an early customer in France but also to appease French customers after Franco-German wars. 1902 Bexhill-on-Sea is venue for Britain's first serious race meeting. Cadillac com-

pany founded. 1903 First Rover, Vauxhall and Standard cars appear. First motor race using the concept of a circuit held in Ireland, won a Mercedes at an average speed of

1904 Frederick Henry Royce makes his first car and meets the Honorable C.S. Rolls for the first time at the Midland Hotel, Manchester, First automatic transmission introduced by the Sturtevant company of the US.

1905 New organisation founded to represent motorists: it is named the Automobile Association and the first job of its "scouts" is to warn members of police speed traps. First Jowett is made and Vauxhall moves to Luton. Austin company founded. 1906 Rolls-Royce introduces its new 40/50 horse power car at the Olympia Show and calls it the Silver Ghost.

1907-1916

1907 First supercharged engine built by Chadwick company of the USA. First Japanese car — the Takuri — is launched. Brooklands motor racing circuit opens, starting era of the Bentley Boys.

1908 Henry Ford introduces new car, the Model T. It is immediate best-seller. Samuel Cody becomes first man to fly an aircraft in Britain. His British Army Aeroplane No 1 rises to 30 feet, flies for a quarter of a mile ... and crashes. Cody

survives unhurt. 1909 Daimler adopts the famous Knight sleeve-valve engine and acquires

Lanchester. 1910 Henry Ford opens car plant at Trafford Park, Manchester. First production car to be successfully fitted with fourwheel brakes is the Scottish-made Argyll and is adopted by Arrol-Johnston, Cross-ley, Spyker and Sheffield Simplex. Unfortunately, main brake control rud passes through the steering mechanism so that the steering wheel locks when the brakes are applied. The system is abandoned. Charles Rolls, playboy and pioneer, is the first Briton killed in a flying accident. Ferdinand Porsche wins the Prince Henry Trial in a Dairnler.

1911 First Monte Carlo Rally. Juan Manuel Fangio, five times world Formula One champion, is born in Argentina. Chevrolet founded. Cadillac is the world's first car with electric lights.

1912 William Morris launches his Oxford model with 1018cc engine. It is nicknamed the Bullnose Morris. The Titanic, the liner proclaimed "unsinkable", goes down with 1,500 people drowned. 1913 British car production up to 25,000.

1914 First traffic lights are switched on in Cleveland, Ohio. Robert Barnford and Lionel Martin found Aston Martin. Europe is turned into a bantlefield with the start of the First World War, the first

Henry Ford introduces a moving assem-

motorised conflict. 1915 Packard's Twin Six is the first car with alloy pistons. 1916 Willys-Knight introduces mechani-

cal windscreen wipers.

even though there are fewer than I million cars. The first words on film - "You ain"t heard nothing yet" — spoken by Al Jolson in The Jazz Singer. 1928 Alvis introduces the first front-wheeldrive car, the 12/75, and William Lyons moves his SS Cars (later Jaguar) from

Blackpool to Coventry. It is a good year for Dixies: BMW makes its first car (an Austin Seven under licence) called the Dixi, and Dixie Dean scores 60 goals as Everton win the first division championship. Cubitt, the construction firm,



cens. A push-button electronic gear selector is introduced in the US.

1918 General Motors takes over 1919 W.O. Bentley exhibits his 3-litro

prototype. Professor Ernest Rutherford splits the atom. 1920 Alvis, founded by Thomas George John, a naval architect, makes its first car. The Duesenberg Model A is the first with

hydraulic brakes. 1921 Lanchester first to offer a left-hand drive option on its cars. Berlin gets the first motorway, the Avus Autobahn,

1922 Ford of America builds 1.2 millionth Model T. Herbert Austin introduces the Seven, priced £225, which continues in production until 1938. First car fitted with a Marconiphone radio is a Daimier. Cadillac introduces automatic choke.

1923 Leaded petrol goes on sale. 1924 The Maxwell company changes its name to Chrysler. Private railway companies are reorganised into four groups the North Western, London and North Eastern, Great Western and Southern Railway. Imperial Airways becomes Britain's first commercial airline.

1925 Czech armaments firm Skoda makes its first car. Aston Martin goes bust but is rescued and relocated to Feltham, Middlesex. White lines are painted on the roads to try to guide cars and prevent accidents.

1926 Mercedes and Benz come together to form Daimler-Benz (strangely, Messrs Daimler and Benz never met). Russia builds its first car, the NAMI-1. Daimler introduces the first VI2 engine, arrow indicators appear on British Talbot cars and car heaters appear in the US. Morris buys Wolseley. Cadillac introduces first car with salety glass. British industry is closed by the General Strike. John Logie Baird demonstrates television, sending pictures by radio. Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) is formed.

1927-1936

1927 Bentley starts historic run of four wins at Le Mans, immortalising the Bentley Boys. Major Henry Segrave breaks the world land speed record, achieving 203.841mph in a Sunbeam beating his rival, Malcolm Campbell. London to Brighton run revived by the Daily Sketch newspaper to commemorate the Emancipation Act. Road deaths total 5,329 and there are 133,943 accidents,



Henry Segrave, 203mph speed pioneer

launches its own car, but it is in production just six years. 1929 Rootes motor dealers buy Humber and Hillman. General Motors buys Vauxhall. David Dunbar Buick, Scotsman who made his fortune from inventing the enamelled bathtub, dies having nded a car company which threw him out and then became part of the General Motors empire. Cadillac introduces synchromesh gears.

1930 A new company, called MG - for Morris Garages - set up by Cecil Kimber to make sports cars. RIOI airship crashes in France, killing 48. Amy Johnson, a 26-year-old Englishwoman, flies solo around the world. Bugatti creates the Royale and Cadillac produces a V16 model.

1931 Ford Motor Company opens a new plant at Dagenham, east London. Traffic ights to be introduced after successful pilot scheme in London. Rolls-Royce takes over struggling Bentley.
1932 Alfa Romeo produces first single-seat

racing car. George V makes the first broadcast by wireless to the Empire. 1933 Morris introduces flashing indicators and Alvis synchromesh gears as standard. Percy Shaw saved from driving off the road in fog by the flashing eyes of a passing "moggy" and invents Cat's Eyes — and becomes a millionaire. Lyons opens its Corner House with waitresses working on a production line system.

1934 Aerodynamics are all the rage: Chrysler introduces its Airflow model and Tatra a saloon with a record-breaking drag coefficient of 0.38. Citroën also introduces its revolutionary front-wheel-drive Traction Avant. Pedestrian crossings with Belisha beacons - named after Leslie Hore-Belisha, a former Minister of Transport - introduced. Queen Mary launched by Cunard on Clydebank. 1935 Driving test arrives and a speed limit of 30mph imposed in towns. William Lyons makes his first SS Jaguar, while Rootes takes over Sunbeam. Triumph offers windscreen washers. Colonel T.E. Lawrence - Lawrence of Arabia - is killed in a motorcycling accident. Fiat introduces the first headlight flasher. Sir Malcom Campbell raises world land speed record to 301mph. 1936 Mercedes launches first diesel car.

Morgan builds first four-wheel car.

coronation of George VL George Eyston Porsche on the orders of Hitler, the car cost 1,000 Reichmarks and buyers saved five marks a week for their KdF Wagen as it was known for its title: Kraft durch Freude, Strength through Joy, the motto of the Nazi Party. Neville Chamberlain, the Prime Minister returns from talks with Hitler and proclaims peace with Germany. Sir Nigel Gresley's Mallard touches (26mph on a run between London. and Newcastle

1939 Buick develops "winker" indicators. but few care: the Second World War

begins in September. 1940 US Army takes delivery of its first Jeep — a nickname derived from the title of General Purpose (GP) vehicle - from the Bantam Car Company (Ford and Willys took over production in 1941). Car factories are turned over to war production and petrol is rationed. This is also the worst year for road accidents — 8,609 dead although there are only 2.3 million cars. Oldsmobile offers first modern automatic transmissions.

1941 Volkswagen starts production but not of people's cars: Kubelwagen and Schwimmwagen military vehicles are first off assembly lines. Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, which brings US into the

1942 With civilian car production virtually ended, Dairoler makes four-wheeldrive scout cars, first Daimlers with disc brakes. Meanwhile, skirts get shorter to save material and two inches are lopped off shirt tails. 1943 Car factories make tanks, shells,

aircraft ... even coffins. An accident in Bethnal Green tube station kills 178 people, Pay As You Earn income tax is introduced and a new wonder drug, penicillin, is saving lives. 1944 Volvo of Sweden introduces its

The Beetle — thanks to British officers

PV444, its first big export seller. On June 6, D-Day, 18,000 troops land in France. 1945 Second World War ends and car rationing has just ended. production restarts slowly. Not for Louis 1951 Chrysler offers power steering and Renault though: he is accused of being a collaborator with the Germans and his

world's most successful production model, the Beetle. The Bristol Aeroplane Company launches a car division, taking BMW technology as part of war repara-1946 Triumph 1800 is first British car with steering column gearchange. First car made in India comes from Hindustan

company is nationalised. A team of

British officers restart car production in

the Volkswagen factory and create the

company making version of Morris

1947 Standard launches Vanguard, 2-litre six-seater saloon, while engineering magnate David Brown acquires floundering Aston Martin. Britain suffers coldest winter since 1888.

1948 Rover launches a "stop-gap" model until assembly lines recover from war production; the vehicle is shown at the Amsterdam Motor Show and is called Land Rover. Young designer Alec Issigonis launches the Morris Minor. Star of London Motor Show at Earls Court is the Jaguar XK120, which has a top speed of 120mph.

1949 Citroen launches 2CV, start of 40 years' production. The FX taxi, the famous London black cab, appears and more than 90,000 go on to be manufactured. The Comet, the world's first passenger jet, flies. 1950 Britain becomes the world's biggest

car exporter, overtaking US. Rover launches Jet 1, a gas turbine car capable of 150mph and Ford introduces combined coil spring and damper known as the McPherson strut after designer Earle S. McPherson, an employee at the Dagenbarn works. First world racing champion is Guiseppe Farina and the Whitsun Bank Holiday brings the worst traffic

jams on record. There are about 2.5 million cars on British roads and petrol

China makes first car. Crash heimets become compulsory in motor racing. 1952 Austin and Morris merge to form British Motor Corporation. Disc brakes, designed by Dunlop, fitted to Jaguar entries in the Mille Miglia and the C-type which won the Le Mans 24-hour endurance race in 1953. The Perth to London express crashes at Harrow, 112 die.

1953 First tubeless tyres marketed in Britain come from Dunlop, while Michelin develops the radial tyre. Ford launches the Anglia. In the US, a legend arrives — the Chevrolet Corvette. 1954 Mercedes produces gullwing 300SL with fuel injection. Standard launches first British production diesel car. Opti-

mism abounds as rationing ends. 1955 Rootes takes over bankrupt Singer company. Toyota produces first Japanesedesigned car. First production car with self-levelling suspension is the Citroën DS. A young racing driver, Stirling Moss, wins the Mille Miglia (1,000 mile-race through Italy) averaging 100mph on public roads.

1956 German production and exports overtake those from Britain. Rover shows off its T3, a four-wheel-drive turboengined saloon.

- 19 T 19 T

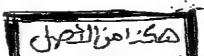
1957 Stirling Moss drives a Vanwall to the. first grand prix victory for a British car. Volvo offers seat belts on its cars and Harold Macmillan tells us we "never had it so good".

1958 Mike Hawthorn becomes Britain's first Formula One world champion and retires immediately; he dies in a car accident a year later on the Guildford bypass. Colin Chapman launches Lotus Elite, first car with a monocoque glass fibre bodyshell. The Ford Edsel appears in the US to become one of the biggest all-

Continued on facing page



The 1948 Morris Minor designed by Alex Issigonis, later to produce the Mini



... Britain's age of the car had begun. It's been a long and eventful road

The industry that began by being sent to Coventry

nary of the incorporation of Daimler, the UK's first company specifically organised to manufacture motor cars. While Edward Butler, the Lanchester brothers, Frederick Bremer and John Henry Knight had built cars before that date, their aim was simply to develop a functioning horseless carriage. None had taken the next step and organised a company to man-ufacture cars in series for sale to the general public.

veller

Daimler, on the other hand, had built no cars (nor would it produce any until 1897) but was organised as a manufacturing concern in the confident expectation that it would dominate the coming British industry, its trump card was to be the acquisition of "master patents" by its associate, the British Motor Syndicate, which would issue licences without which no car could be built or sold.

Founded in July 1895 with a capital of £150,000, the Syndicate had recently acquired the British Daimler rights from Frederick R. Simms for £35,000 as the first step in this ambitious plan. Simms not only imported Dairnier engines from Germany but also exacted a licence fee from owners of cars powered by engines built under Daimler's patents - which included leading French makes such as Panhard-Levassor and Peugeot - to permit them to be

driven on the roads of Britain. This was a questionable benefit, for - while there were then lew restrictions on the use of cars in France - in Britain motor cars were subtraction engines: they had to be preceded by a man on loot.

But the man behind the Syndicate - a diminutive company promoter named

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu on how a business worth billions

started in an old cotton mill

planning for a near future in which this onerous restriction would be lifted, triggering a massive upsurge in the sales of horseless carriages Lawson, who billed himself

as "the Pioneer of fin-de-siècle Locomotion", had made a fortune out of floating a score of heavily over-capitalised companies; his early career in the Coventry cycle industry had been a great advantage when it came to profiting from the boom in bicycle and pneumatic tyre companies in the early 1890s. He foresaw the beneficial changes to society that would result from the introduction of the motor car and floated a British motor industry consisting of a string of subsdiary companies which could produce a

Despite warnings in the financial press (The fact that Mr H.J. Lawson is the controlling spirit is a very bad omen for the company and augurs a speedy acquaintance with the bankruptcy court rather than the success the patent deserves"), the Dairoler share issue raised its full capital of £100,000 within the 48 hours allotted. Of this, £40,000 was paid to Lawson's even though Daimler at that point did not have a factory. Frederick Simms, retained

by the new Daimler Company

ceaseless flow of royalties.

sent out to find a suitable building and recommended a purpose-built engine works at Cheitenham, for sale as a going concern with a skilled staff of 80 workmen. But Lawson had a more devious plan in mind. He bought a vacant cotton mill at Coventry for £18,000 while Simms was out of the country: Simms protested, but in vain. The lour-storey mill, a most un-suitable building for the production of motor vehicles, belonged to Lawson's crony Terah Hooley, who had acquired it as a speculation ... and that was the sole reason

the British motor industry. The plan was for Daimler to produce engines and chassis; the grandly-titled Great Horseless Carriage Company (with an issued capital of £750,000, of which £500,000 went straight into the British Motor Syndicate's coffers) would use these as the basis of a range of cars and commer-cial vehicles.

Coventry became the centre of

art of what became the "Motor Mills" were occupied by associated companies, most notaby that run by the 'motor charlatan" Edward Joel Pennington, an American Torpedo Autocars" operated on principles that defied common sense. Their inordinately long stroke engines were completely devoid of any form of cooling, but ran well enough convince investors to plunge vast sums of money Pennington's get-richquick ventures. And that included the normally astute Lawson, who paid £100,000 dubious patents.

While the shady financial dealings were going on, the unsung heroes of the infant as consulting engineer, was . motor industry - the engi-



neers -- got on with putting a British motor car into production. Three names stand out: Simms (consulting engineer). James Critchley (Daimler chief engineer) and Lincolnshire-born Otto Mayer, who had worked with Gottlieb Daimler in Germany since 1887 but returned to England to help set up the Coventry the rest of his long life.

Although the Coventry company had taken the Daimler was on its board of directors, the German firm had no financial interest in the British organisation: on the contrary, it owed its

continued existence to Simms (who had been born and brought up in Hamburg). Late in 1895 he had mediated between Gortlieb Dairnler and the board of the Cannstatt-Daimler company to settle a protracted disagreement which had brought the German company to the edge of bankruptcy; it is probably fair to say that without Simms (and the £17,000 he paid for the transfer of the Daimler licence), the Daimler-Motor-

first Mercedes in 1901. Simms and Critchley studied established car factories in France and Britain closely.

have survived to build the

and though Simms planned to build cars based on the German Daimler designs in Coventry, Cannstatt was slow the requested drawings and patterns.

s a result, when Daimler of Coventry took delivery of a couple of Paris-built Panhard-Levassors in mid-1896, these were taken as the pattern of production: these may have been Daimlermodern, different in almost every significant respect from the obsolescent, belt-driven horseless carriages still being built by the Germans.

Critchley improved the Panhard design — Coventry's metallurgy was superior to the Parisian variety — and the Daimlers that finally went into production in the spring of 1897 were among Europe's

finest cars. Fortunately for Daimler, Lawson and his cronies moved on to other ventures (which earned Lawson a year's hard labour for fraud in 1904); his other companies soon fell by the wayside. The financial crises, and scon confirmed its position as Britain's premiere marque, culminating in 1900 when it

the future Edward VII - as a result of my father introducing him to motoring.

Daimler was acquired by Jaguar in 1960, so is now part of the Ford organisation. Happily, it has produced 200 special centenary Daimlers to celebrate the anniversary and, coincidentally, Ford USA will also be celebrating, as 100 years ago this month Motor Mills tenant Edward Pennington played an indirect role in the creation of Henry ricycle. Ford based his engine on an article on the Pennington power unit in the American Machinist magazine of delivered the first royal car to January 3 1896.

Continued from facing page

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time flops: production lasted less than two years. Long-playing stereophonic records appear along with long-distance direct telephone STD (subscriber trunk dialling)

1959 Momentous events: Britain's first motorway, the MI, is opened and the Mini, designed by Alec Issigonis, goes on sale, costing £500 including purchase tax. Also introduced - yellow lines to curb parking. Asson Martin wins at Le Mans, Sir Christopher Cockerell launches another British first, the hovercraft.

1960 Car ownership soars to almost 10 million and will rise by another 5 million in the next decade. Ferrari scores last grand prix victory by a from-engined car. 1961 Jaguar launches the E-type, world's first 150mph production car, and takes over Daimler. Leyland takes over Standard-Triumph and the Morris Minor becomes the first British car to sell I million. First Israeli car, the Sabra, is provided by Reliant of Tamworth in Staffordshire. Yuri Gagarin is the first

man in space. 1962 Hydrolastic suspension, invented by Alec Moulton, appears for the first time on Austin and Morris 1100 models, which sell more than 2 million. Ford Cortina is launched and Horda makes its first car. Graham Hill wins first of two Formula One world championships. VW makes ! million Beetles in the year and Lotus races its epochal 25 racing car. Stirling Moss crashes at Goodwood, effectively ending his distinguished career without winning a world championship. James Bond makes his screen debut in Dr No and introduces the world to his Aston Martin

1963 Rover 2000 is launched and Vauxhall opens Ellesmere Port plant on Mersevalde to make the Viva: Ford opens rival factory at Halewood. Jim Clark wins the first of two Formula One world champienships. Year identifier letter added to registration plates to help trace cars. which have to take an annual MoT test. NSU Spycier is the first car with the rotary Wankel engine. End of an era: William Morris, later Lord Nuffield, who started

as a bicycle repairer and became a motoring magnate, dies aged 84. A new television programme, Coronation Street, tops ratings for the first time.

1964 Chrysler buys into ailing Rootes Group and Porsche launches a car it calls simply the 91). Donald Campbell's Bluebird II reaches 403mph. John Surtees, seven times world motorcycle champion. takes to four wheels to win the Formula One world title. Mary Quant, invents a short skirt, and coins a word that Austin and Morris applies to their little Minor model, the Mini.

1965 First Japanese car - a Daihatsu Compagno - goes on sale in Britain, but Citroen, manufacturing in Britain since 1926, closes its factory in Slough, Berkshire. Brake stop lights are compulsory, while Rover races a gas turbine car at Le Mans which finishes tenth.

1966 BMC absorbs Jaguar. First passenger car made in Turkey comes from Reliant, while the Jensen FF is the first four-wheel-drive with anti-lock braking. Leyland takes over Rover. England's soccer team wins the World Cup.

1967-1976

1967 Breathalyser becomes a part of the British way of motoring life. The plastic bag into which motorists blew contains crystals which change colour to indicate whether drivers are over the limit of 80 milligrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood. Penalties are a fine of £100 or a maximum of four months' jail -- or both. Year identifier letter moved to August to boost low summer sales, sparking annual one-month sales boom. Iran starts making the Peykan, kits of Hillman Hunters sent from Britain. Donald Campbell's latest record-breaking attempt ends in his death when his jet-powered Bluebird craft crashes on Coniston Water. Cosworth engine - which will become the world's most successful racing engine, appearing in 155 grand prix-winning cars - races for the first time. In Sweden, the nation chaotically switches from driving on the left to the right. 1968 New family car, the Escort, launched



Jackie Stewart, three times champion

by Ford and goes on to be the nation's bestseller for nearly three decades. Leyland and BMC merge to form, not unexpectedly, BLMC. First fuel-injected British car is Triumph 2.5-litre Pl. while BLMC makes more than I million cars in a year. Twice world motor racing champion, Jim Clark, dies in crash in minor race

at Hockenheim circuit in Germany. 1969 Ford launches its Dagenham-built car you always promised yourself", the long-running Capri. Riley, made since 1898, disappears. Britain sends a record 771,634 cars for export. Jackie Stewart wins first of three world championships. Apollo II lands on the moon and Con-

corde sets out on maiden flight. 1970 New concept in four-wheel-drive vehicles, the Range Rover - designed by Spen King - arrives sensationally and within months, Land Rover cannot make enough to meet demand. Ford makes its 2 millionth Cortina, but Singer, founded in 1905, disappears.

1971 Treadless slick tyres are used in racing, while the Lunar Rover, which cost \$5 million to develop and could travel at 10mph, is first vehicle on the moon. Rolls-Royce, the cars-to-aero group, collapses, and Waher Owen Bentley, founder of the famous marque, dies. The forgettable Morris Marina is launched.

1972 Britain builds record 1.921 million cars. Sales of VW Beetles hit 15 million and General Motors starts offering airbags as safety measure in the US. Clive Sinclair announces the pocket calculator. 1973 Speed limits cut to 50mph to save energy as Britain goes on three-day week during the gravest economic crisis since the war. Yom Kippur war between Israel and Egypt deepens crisis when Arab states out oil supplies to the West, leading to rising petrol prices and increasing popularity of small cars.

1974 Peugeot takes over Citroën, while Mercedes launches five-cylinder diesel car and BMW first turbo-charged produc-

tion car. 1975 Graham Hill, twice Formula One world champion, dies in a flying accident. Rolls-Royce Camargue is first car with bilevel air-conditioning (offering different temperatures for head and feet) and the Porsche Turbo is the world's fastest accelerating car. 1976 VW Golf races to 1 million produc-

tion total in 31 months, quickest first million ever. In Britain. Sunbeam and Wolseley names disappear after 77 years. Six-wheeled Tyrell P34 wins a grand prix while Aston Martin shows dramatic Lagonda, featuring electronic digital dashboard. James Hunt wins the world Formula One championship by a single point - and Britain basks in a recordbreaking summer forcing the Government to appoint Denis Howell as minister for drought — it starts to rain.

1977-1986

1977 Fiesta launched as Ford takes over as biggest-selling company in UK from British Leyland. Lotus introduces grand prix racing to "ground effect" aerodynamics, Renault the turbo-charger. 1978 Peugeot buys Chrysler's collapsing

UK operations for a single dollar. British Leyland decides on partnership with Honda of Japan to make cars jointly. starting with Triumph Acclaim. a rebadged Honda. 1979 Winter of discontent and bleak year

of closures in the motor industry. 1980 Production of MGs ends, killed off by British Leyland, which lost £900 on every car exported to the US. Company launches new small car, the Metro. Audi Quattro is first volume car with permanent four-wheel-drive. Japanese produce more cars than the US for the first time. 1981 Delorean company launches all stainless steel-bodied car, designed by Lotus, for manufacture in Northern Ireland. BMW introduces on-board computer on 5-series.

1982 Ford introduces "jelly mould" Sierra to replace best-selling Cortina and Mercedes-Benz introduces its first compact car, the 190. Delorean's short life comes to an end when business shuts down, costing 1,500 jobs. Anthony Colin Bruce Chapman, founder of Lotus, dies

1983 Last Morris, the Ital, made, ending an era of British motoring, while Richard Noble breaks world land speed record. taking Thrust II to 633mph. Police use car wheelclamp, the dreaded Denver Boot. for first time.

1984 Sir John Egan takes Jaguar Cars. once owned by state-owned BL Group. into private ownership and its most successful era of sales. Last Austin, a Montego, is produced by BL, while the Triumph name also sinks.

1985 Sir William Lyons, genius who founded Jaguar Cars, dies. Rolls-Royce reaches the milestone of 100,000 cars made (75 per cent are still in existence). Clive Sinclair is back with the Sinclair CS electric car. It flops.

1986 Margaret Thatcher opens Nissan factory at Washington, Tyne and Wear, which will make Bluebird saloons and hatchbacks. General Motors buys Lotus, while Sir Graham Day, chairman appointed by Mrs Thatcher, changes name of BL Group to Rover. Rolls-Royce puts anti-lock brakes and fuel injection on all models. Deregulation of the City sparks rise of free-spending yuppies, who make Porsches, Ferraris and GTis cult objects.

1987-1996

1987 Goodbye to the Ford Capri after 1.8 million made. Ford surprises everybody and buys Aston Martin and tiny AC Cars. 1988 British Aerospace buys Rover for ElSO million; the Government writes off £800 million of company debt to get the deal through. Land Rover Discovery launched. Ferrari F40 is the first of the 200mph club, later to be joined by Jasuar's XJ220 and McLaren Fl.

1989 Car sales hit record 2.3 million -500,000 registered in August alone. Britons now own 24 million motor cars. Toyota, Japan's biggest carmaker, decides to set up factory at Burnaston. Derbyshire, Jaguar, jewel in the Government's privatisation crown, cannot go it alone and is bought for £1.6 billion by Ford. Alec Issigonis, born in 1900 and the man who designed both the best-selling British cars of the century - Morris Minor and Mini - dies. Japanese businessman pays £10 million for a

Ferrari 250 GTO. 1990 Year starts with Ford's 32,000 workers on national pay strike. Government sells "cherished" number plates from MUS IC to FI GHT - to make up to £15 million-a-year. Ministers call for action as car crime reaches an epidemic with a theft or break-in every minute. Carmakers rush to invest in Eastern Europe after fall of Berlin Wall. Production of the Citroën 2CV ends with 7 million manufactured. General Motors announces the Impact, an electric car with Dan Dare styling.

1991 First all-new Bentley, the Continental R. since 1952 unveiled by Rolls-Royce. with price of £175,000. Car sales slump to 1.5 million for the year. Gulf War sends petrol prices to record levels.

1992 Nigel Mansell is Formula One world champion at last, winning more grands prix than any other Briton. Honda is alest Japanese company to open a factory in Britain - at Swindon, Wiltshire - to make the Accord mid-range car. Nissan launches Washington-made Micra small car - and MG is back as a sports car, the RVS, a £26,500 MGB lookalike. Rolls-

Royce closes Mulliner Park Ward subsidiary after 52 years, home of the Phantom VI limousines used by the Royal Family. Sales of GTi cars, so popular in the Eighties boom. collapse. Brian Angliss releases AC from Ford ownership and launches Ace sports car.

1993 Mansell is Indycar champion in the US, first driver to win back-to-back titles. General Motors sells Lotus to Bugatti. controlled by controversial Romano Artioli. Sir David Brown dies, but not before he sees his beloved Aston Martin revived by Ford to launch the new D87. using his initials. Ford launches its world car, the Mondeo. Genevieve, the 1904 Darraco that starred in the Fifties movie, is sold to the Netherlands for £150,000. 1994 Rover is bought from British

Aerospace by BMW of Germany for £800 million to form a new group with Bernd Pischetsrieder, a nephew of Sir Alec Issigonis, as chairman. Jaguar launches new XJ range, its first new model in Ford ownership and Ford launches Probe, a successor to the Capri but made in America from Japanese designs. Rolls-Royce announces BMW will make its next generation of engines. Channel Tunnel opens to first cars - a 400-yard procession of veteran and vintage classics led by Prince Michael of Kent in a Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost. McLaren Fl is world's fastest production car at 23 lmph.

1995 New publication appears - called Car 95 - in The Times to chart fortunes of the motor industry. MG is back, with Rover launching the mid-engined MGF. Flight Lieutenant Andy Green is named as pilot for Thrust SSC, car that will attempt to break sound barrier (747mph). New fashion grips the industry - MPVs. or people carriers. Eleven models are launched. Colin McRae is Britain's first world raily champion. McLaren wins Le Mans at first attempt.

1996 Rover, one of few names that can be traced back to the start of the industry. launches new 200 range across Europe. Britain awaits arrival of the new Bond car, a BMW Z3, made in the US, and the first changes to the driving test in 60 years are made with the introduction of a theory test. Motor industry celebrates 100 years.



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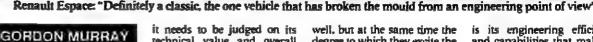
مكذا من الأصل

Are any classics of 2096 among today's production-line cars? Vaughan Freeman asked some top designers

Potential style mileage to last the distance



Fiat Coupe: "It stands out from the crowd, is very different today and will be seen as different in a poor man's classic sense





"in a twee way, the Renaul Twingo might survive, the same way that the Citroën 2CV and VW Beetle have

it needs to be judged on its technical value and overall contribution. If we think about the Mini, voted Car of the Century by Autocar magazine - though I have a little bit of doubt about that choice - that revolutionised motoring with the engine put sideways, increased space inside and reduced exterior dimensions, a dramatic change that made a significant impact

Modern cars are very satisfactory and do the job very well, but at the same time the degree to which they excite the emotional reactions has gone downhill. Most production cars become less interesting as

they become more reliable. One of the recent cars that did excite the emotions was the BMW ZI with the roll-up doors, a car produced in low numbers, quite attractive and a definite future classic. You must have those sort of elements of design to make a car last. People movers and fourwheel drive off-roaders are modern examples of cars that. like the Mini, broke away from the conventional.

"The Chrysler Voyager, the first real people carrier which was the first of its kind in the market place, and the Renault Espace are vehicles that established a motoring trend that will be around for years. In the same way, the Range Rover Classic made off-road vehicles acceptable on-road.

Gordon Sked. 25 years with Rover, six of them as design chief leading to the creation of extremely well-received MGF sports car launched last year, now runs his own design studio. He says: "The current Fiat Coupé will go down as different. It stands out from the crowd, it is very different today and will be seen as different in a poor man's classic sense.

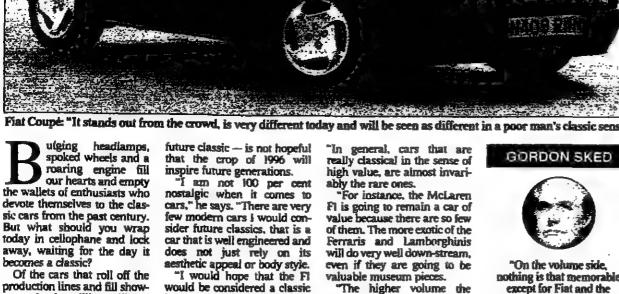
"At the top end of the scale, I think you have to look at the McLaren Fl and, much as I like the design of the car, for me what will make it a classic and capabilities that make it. definitively, a triumph.

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"At the bottom end, Rover is still making the Mini, it is still in production so fits the criteria of a modern car as a possible future classic. The Range Rover Classic — though here I am thinking of the early three-door design - like the Mini, was born of that curious British way of doing things starting with a blank blackboard and saying here is an engineering idea and then applying to it the right aesthetic design. I hope that returns.

The TVR is something like that Although it is a recognisable sports car design. the technical elements set it aside. The Toyota RAV4 for me is a sort of surrogate urban vehicle, not a true off-roader or a conventional small car, but different, and a car that fills a niche of its own, also works."

f today's mass-produced cars, Gordon Sked also doubts that many will survive as classics: "On the volume side, nothing is that memorable, with, again, perhaps the exception of Fiat who have been adventurous with Bravo/Brava and the very good and competent Coupé. which stands out, with a different feel, a car that is nationalistic, very Italian, and works as a show car on the road far more successfully I think than the Tigra - which just doesn't work.



would be considered a classic rooms by the million, will any in 30 or 40 years' time. I think excite passion — or even a the F40 Ferrari, although not shred of passing interest—in the vintage and veteran car at first sight a well-balanced car, with ducts and scoops and shut lines all over the place, is Visualising the classic car a future classic in a butch sort nut of the future deep in of way. In a twee way, the concentration twiddling with Renault Twingo might surthe nuts and bolts of a Ford vive, in the same way that the Citroën 2CV and VW Beetle

- but that is precisely what happens today with owners of Ford Model Ts who love and The Renault Espace will definitely be a classic, the one cherish a car that put the vehicle that has broken the mould from an engineering To establish the classics of point of view, as a car-sized the future, we asked three of multi-purpose vehicle with the Britain's top designers, now external dimensions of a sketching the cars we will be BMW 3 Series and excellent driving in 10 years' time, and responsible for many of the

"From volume manufacturcars we are driving now, to ers. I don't see anything name the models of today they around to replace the Mini or admire most. It was a struggle in a world of "jelly mould" the Fiat Cinquecento, which revolutionised motoring. I models, but they did find some would like to be able to draw engineering up a long list of road cars that could be future classics, but, Gordon Murray, technical sadiv. I just can't think of any." director of McLaren Cars and Roy Axe, managing director the man behind the audacious of Design Research Associates 23 mph McLaren FI — one of and former Rover Group design director working on modthe few cars being built today that might bear scrutiny as a els such as the Montego, says:

The price of an average semi was just £5,000,

a prescription was 20p and you could



Range Rover Classic: "Starting with a blank blackboard and an engineering idea, then applying the right aesthetic design"

Forget the good old days, you now get better cars without working as hard, says Kevin Eason

adventurous Bravo/Brava

Nostalgia is simply not what it was



CAR TOOMS

movement of 2096?

shapes and

achievements to admire.

Escort seems a might unlikely

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by manufacturers. The company, part of BSG International, one of the country's biggest dealer groups. says that it took longer to earn enough money for even the smallest runabout in 1970 than it does today. Using calculations devised by the Central Statistical Office. Bristol Street reckons the same Escort today would take the average worker 1,788 hours' worth of earnings. But the new car has the backing of extensive safety testing, lots of safety equipment, such as airbags, headrests and seat belts as well as a plush cahin and stereo and some guarantee of reliability - a factor that was singularly missing from many types of

society savings together, for this is the age of easy credit and a dozen ways to pay. Paul Williams, the company's managing director, says: "I remember buying my first car. I borrowed the money. and paying it back left me with a car but little else for months afterwards. Though buying a

car is still an important decision, it can be far less painful because of the variety of ways in which you can pay that don't demand full payment on

product, the more it falls into a

At the top and of the scale, the gap has widened even further: a basic Jaguar XJ6 with 28-litre engine in 1970 needed 6,230 hours of earnings; now that figure is 5,352, yet the Jaguar comes with a powerful 4-litre engine as standard, one of the world's most impressive electronic security systems and a record as the safest car in Britain in a crash.

"Think of the standard cars of yesterday," says Williams. "No headrests, no top quality

cassette player, you felt every bump in the road as you banged along at 60mph trying to see out of a back windscreen that had neither wiper nor heater. Fifth gear would have been nice, let alone side impact bars, airbags and a compact

disc player. Not only has speed increased, he adds, but so has fuel economy which, coupled with petrol prices lower in real terms, makes motoring a great deal cheaper. The most basic Ford Escort today, says Williams, returns 10 miles more to the gallon than its 1970 predecessor, yet gets from rest to 60mph six seconds quicker and has a top speed lomph

higher — and is much more comfortable and quiet. But the nostalgia factor is a

powerful one, and Williams remembers the Ferraris and Aston Martins of a golden age with affection, as well as one other car of 1970. One of the cheapest cars on the market 25 years ago was a lowly Fiat 500 Sunroof which, not surprisingly, took its name from its

most luxurious feature, "Unfortunately," he adds. "the sunroof must have increased the wind resistance or weighed the car down because it boasted a maximum speed of just 59mph."

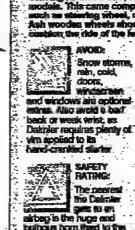
How long to earn your car (1970 and 1996): ● Mini 850 — £596 (1.857 hours); £6,346 (1,133). ● Ford Escort 2dr — (2.193): £10.015 (1.788). ■ Tovota Corolla — (2,489); £11.688 (2,087). Land Rover short wheelbase

£980 (3,053); £17,890 (3,194). Morgan — £1,086 (3,383); £17,831 (3,183). ● Jaguar XJ6 — £2,000 (6,230): £29,974 (5,3**52**.

■ Porsche 911 coupé — £3,671 (11,435); £59,377 (10,601). Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow £8,671 (27,010); £104,774 (18,705).

spite of the foreign name and design, first

thin had on come from the critish Desider
indicate, which was incorporated on January 14, 1896,
ider Stance from Gottle Districts in Germany Early
diniers were closely patterned on the French Panhard
of Levespor takin-cylinder care. By 1899, Daimler was diding its own 3-fire, 12 horse-power, four-cylin odele. This came complete with modern gadget ich as steering wheel, wither than the local-citie it wooden wheels shod with presentic tyres he stant the ride of the lest-epring solid ade sucp Snow storms, reim, coidi,



skibeg is the huge end bullous horn thed to the huge steering wheel which mounted on a strictly non-collegable and unyielding steering colu is airmed at the drivers

Stave Woodin managar with Rusintons, says

LOOK FOR:

high as 21,082 a year

the flow of 35 to 40 mph.

capable of 210mph

Don't bother can afford not to care. Simon Kidston, auction manager at Coys, says tray market is a premium. The National Motor Museum Daimler would be \$200,000 or more because of igres and coration

PARTS (prices include VAT):
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The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has made £190 million from selling cherished plates which spell funny words and names and include all the prefix marks up to the

current N-plate. Now there will be two price bands, starting at £250 with most registration marks under £400. The premium band will have frames, such as

will cost £399 and £990, depending on their numbers. Plates with the prefixes A. H. J. K. L. and M come at the standard fees of £250 and £500, but anyone who wants a treasured first plate in the series with the number I will have to pay an extra premium. Current N-plates are also premium rate, starting at £699 with any number 1 at £1,999. There is also an assignment fee of £80 plus VAT. Further information from the DVLA on 0!81-200-6565.





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What became of **Leopard J Furie?**

As a name, it lacks a certain pizzazz. The earliest Daimler was the Phacton. But what exactly is a

A in a more elegant age. carmakers used classical references to name cars. Phaethon, or Phaeton, was the son of Helios, the Greek sun god. who came to grief after borrowing his father's chariot - a plot many fathers today will recognise. Open, four-wheeled carriages for two or four horses were known as Phactons and the Daimler was technically an open carriage with four horses (power) . . . so there you have it.

On Homer and Plato for some suitably elever names when the car industry was growing up?

No. Vanity is the most certain human trait (although I have never heard of a Ford Narcissus). New carmakers simply named whatever they made after themselves: hence Austin, Morris, Armstrong-Siddeley, Ford and the rest, Numbers were allocated to denote length or engine power, but cars had a tendency to gather nicknames — such as the Bullnose Morris. Carmakers soon figured out that catchy names were memorable.

Ah, we remember all those lovely names like Ford Cortina, the Anglia, Morris Oxford. They were so memorable. Wait a minute ... nobody uses names anymore, it's all numbers.

A century of thinking up new names must have worn everybody out, whereas number combinations are theoretically infinite. Well, actually they are not, as Volvo found out. The Swedes this week announced that its new small car will be badged the S40 for saloons, C70 convertibles and coupes and V40 on 5door estate cars.

Eh? Why does V stand for 5-door? Are they using Roman numerals, or did Volvo decide to do their badging in Swedish when they got to estates?

A No. The official answer is that they were going to call the cars S4, F4 and C7. Audi (which already has an S4) objected, so S4 became S40 but then Ferrari had the F40, so Volvo changed the F4 to V40 and decided V would have to stand for versatility. All right, it's beyond me as well.

Wouldn't they have Wouldn't they have been better going back to the encyclopedia and trying to find some new interesting names like Daimler?

Like what? The Society of A Motor Manufacturers and Traders has a directory of names (kept by a Miss Ferrari) in which manufacturers register names they want. But they tie up dozens to ensure they are ready when they want them for a new model.

So that is to stop them choosing a name like Volvo only to discover they have to change it at the last

Exactly. Land Rover's Exactly. Land Rover's Discovery was going to be the Highlander before they discovered Leyland Trucks had already registered it. The Japanese have the best idea: they just make up meaningless names which, at least, give us a giggle.

That's unamed Nissan funny about the Nissan That's unkind. What's Micra or the Toyota Carina E, or even the Mitsubishi Shogua?

Not much. But I defy you not to grin when any-body remembers the old Nissan Cedric, or the Leopard J. Furie, shown at the Tokyo Motor Show about six years ago. I thought it was named after a Japanese rock star. It turned out the boys at Nissan made it up out of the blue.

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Right from the start, men had to share the high-speed track. Helen Mound recalls some outstanding girl racers

On the trail of fast women

lmost as soon as cars ap-peared on the roads of Britain women took the wheel and as soon as racing started they were in the thick of the fray. The first all-woman motoring organisation was the Ladies' Automobile Club, established in 1903 under the Duchess of Sutherland. Since then women drivers have provided some of the most colourful incidents in motor sport.

Dorothy Levitt is believed to have been the first British woman to take up racing in 1903. She was supported by Selwyn Edge, a motorsport pro-moter who believed a woman racing driver would attract more attention than a man. She entered the Hereford 1000 mile trial in a De Dion in 1904 as the sole female competitor.

To add to the excitement - and the publicity -- she dressed in an attractive costume designed for the best garden parties of the period and insisted that her black Pomeranian dog accompanied her. Male competitors expressed their annoyance by strapping toy dogs to the bonnets of their cars. However, Dorothy returned the humour when, at the concert given to competitors - to which she, as a woman, was not invited - proceedings were interrupted by a servant bearing a gift bag of dog biscuits for each of the male competitors. By unanimous decision she was invited to the remainder of the evening.
In 1905 she won "the highest award

for the De Dion" in the Scottish trials and later that year won the Autocar Challenge Trophy. In 1907 she expressed her fury at the newly-opened Brooklands - the first place where racing cars could be tested thoroughly — at the authorities' refusal to let women compete in mixed races.

In 1908 Brooklands held its first race for women drivers. Called, rather curiously, the Ladies' Bracelet Handicap, it was won by Muriel Thompson driving an Austin. Ethel





Formula One's Divina Galica

Locke King, wife of the creator of the banked track, finished second. Other outstanding personalities to frequent Brooklands included Dame Barbara Cartland, who, as Mrs Alexander McCorquodale, was a regular visitor in the late 1920s. When challenged by a male friend at one of her parties in the summer of 1931, she set out to prove women were as good at driving as men. The already famous novelist organised a race of

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Novelist Barbara Cartiand, right, and society friends who raced MG Midgets at Brooklands in 1931

ten society women at Brooklands in November 1931.

Although only one competitor had raced before, her friends were keen to drive the MG Midgets supplied for the race. Despite a great deal of publicity being gained from the event, it is questionable whether Barbara Cartland actually proved her point; the competitors were uncertain as to whether they were doing one, two or three laps of the circuit, at least one driver lost control of her car and the Movietone News insisted the finish was re-run for the camera because the original wasn't exciting enough. The fastest woman on the

Brooklands circuit was Kay Petre, who in 1935 held a lap record of 134.24mph. Kay was the tiniest - 4ft 6ins — and most surprising lady in early motorsport. She broke records in hill climbing, and endurance races such as the 12-hour Donington race and Le Mans.

Her career began in 1933 when she bought a 2-litre supercharged Bugatti. However, in September 1937 she was involved in a horrendous accident practising for the British Racing Drivers 500-mile race at Brooklands when she was struck by another car and suffered very serious head injuries. She pulled through, underwent plastic surgery and overcame partial paralysis.

Kay retired from racing soon afterwards and became Britain's first

female motoring journalist. In 1944 she was the only woman in a team of seven journalists that founded the Guild of Motoring Writers. Later she took up the job of colour selection. styling and sales appeal for Austin.

robably the most famous woman competition driver has been Pat Moss Carlsson, the leading lady of British rallying. She won the Coupe des Dames eight times on the Monte Carlo Rally between 1958 and 1972. Sister of Stirling Moss (she married Erik Carlsson in 1963) she raced Morris Minors and Riley 1.5s in her teens. Once she got behind the wheel of a big Austin-Healey — then considered a "man's car" — at the age of 23, she proved to the rally world she was as good as the male competitors. She finished eighth on the Alpine Rally and fourth on the Liège-Rome-Liège.

During her 20-year rallying career Pat won the Tulip and German Rallies of 1962 in a Mini Cooper. She also had a year with Ford and two seasons with Lancia, during which she won the 1969 Sestriere Rally and was second in San Remo, and several seasons with Saab.

Her most memorable result was leading the first female crew to victory in a European Championship rally — Liège-Rome-Liège — in 1960, driving her big Austin Healey. Divina Galica, who became the

first British woman to compete in Formula One, began her career in downhill skiing and bobsleigh. She was a member of the British Olympic skiing team in the 1960s. She started racing in saloon cars and moved on to Formula 5000. Between 1976 and 1978 she competed in Fl — always racing in car number 13 — but despite being one of the fastest women in Britain, she suffered three non-starts and later retired. Her best qualifying position was 27th.

The first British sprint championship in 1970 was won by Patsy Burt driving a McLaren. She won the first six of the nine qualifying events she entered and went on to win the British hill dimb championship in the same year. The first woman to drive round the world was Violette Cordery in 1927. She covered 10,250 miles and crossed five continents at an average of 36mph.

But it's not just in competition that women drivers have striven to match their male counterparts. In 1911 Mary Petre from Essex became the first British woman to appear before a court on a charge of speeding. Aged 15, she had been driving her elder brother's Matchless motorcycle with sidecar at 67mph. To lighten the bike, she had taken the baffles out of the silencer; the resulting noise alerted her neighbours and the police to her activities. She was banned from riding a motorcycle for a year and fined six shillings.

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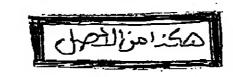
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Actor Bryan Mosley tells Andrew Pierce why he turned down Hollywood to become Mayor of Coronation Street

Lessons in the Saint's car with a fireman

its 36th year, few members many changes as Bryan Mosley, better known as Alf Roberts, one-time mayor of Weatherfield and owner of the corner shop.

Bryan has been a regular since 1968 - and is now the third longest serving member of the cast - but first appeared as a postman in the series in 1961 when it was barely a year old. Before the Street, he performed alongside the likes of Roger Moore in The Saint or Michael Caine.

An accomplished stage actor and film buff, he recently demonstrated on television his hitherto unknown skills as a fencer. A founder member of the Society of British Fight Directors, he opted for Weatherfield rather than Hollywood. He said: "I had just finished the film Get Carter with Michael Caine. I thought about going to Hollywood, but then Coronation Street came up. I made the right choice. All the blokes I knew who went to Hollywood have either died

or disappeared without trace." Bryan, whose character was presented with an OBE by the Queen at Buckingham Palace in November, has a permament souvenir of his time as Mayor; he had his own ornamental chain made for the role and when his year in office came to an end, the chain went with him. In private life, he is a leading campaigner for the British Diabetic Association,

How did you first learn to drive?

I picked it up in the RAF in 1950. I was in air traffic control, so proficiency behind a wheel was an advantage. I was obliged to drive a Jeep and then a Land Rover. The gear lever snapped on the Land Rover, which

STEERING COLUMN

was a prototype. I knew it would be a great success. It was another 10 or so years before I sat the driving test. I kept cancelling because work came up in Z-Cars or The Saint. ! remember borrowing The Saint's car. It was a Volvo and the woman who used to clean for us said her husband would teach me. He was well qualified — he drove a fire engine.

What was your first car?

An Austin A40 Somerset. It drove like a tank. My father-in-law gave it to us. I was a skint actor and we had six kids, so it was vastly overpacked. I also crammed in my mother and father-in-law. Well, he did give us the car. In the days before Coronation Street, I hitch-hiked to London for auditions. Having the car made a big

What car do you drive now, and why?

An Audi 100 automatic. It's my fifth Audi I like them. It's a good car.

Do you like driving?

Not much these days, but sometimes on a clear road, which is rare, in good weather. I absolutely love it. I'm scared and nervous most of the time in case a tyre bursts. Compare that with driving in places like Lanzarote. You can see for miles, it's a breath of fresh air. For 20 years I used to drive 100 miles every day to the studios. But I had a heart attack, I now have a flat in Manchester. My wife, Norma, never took a test. Every time she made her mind up to learn, she fell



What is your most hated car?

The Hillman Hunter (1960s) or the Hillman Avenger. They were always reps' cars. I also dislike ones driven by people with hats and pipes or a combination of both. The nearest I got to a hated car was a Talbot.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

When they overtake on the inside lane. The culprits always look like the same bloke - the sales rep type.

What is your dream car?

I don't dream about cars. There are far more interesting things to fantasise about. An ideal car would be one which does not break down.

What is your worst habit in the car?

Losing interest particularly on the same stretch of the M62 on my way

home. It is the last four or five miles. I get terribly bored, and frequently turn off because I might become a

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

l got stuck in a carwash in a 12-seater Bedford van. All the kids and camping equipment were loaded in. I had not taken into consideration that it was more than 6ft high. We were thoroughly jammed. I had to let some air out of the tyres — and we never did get the van washed.

What do you listen to in the car?

I love tapes of Dad's Army. Another favourite is the late Arthur Lowe reading the Diary of a Nobody, or Robert Powell reading The 39 Steps on long journeys. On short journeys, I used to play Gershwin, but it is too depressing. I prefer Elgar.

If you were Secretary of State for

Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Clear all the old bangers off the road, especially the badly-maintained ones which belch smoke. I would also charge foreign wagons to drive on motorways. I would forbid them access to secondary roads unless they paid for a police escort. They come through the bottom of our street, hold everything up, and pollute us. We pay tolls on the Continent, and they should do the same here. They want harmonisation, after all.

Which is your favourite car

The Rover 400 Series. Not that I have driven one. They are immaculate. If I do change the Audi, it will be for one of those. I also like the one for the Bentley Turbo. A friend of mine has one, but I always bang my head getting in. A prestigious car, al-though I would rather spend the money on a house.

Mercedes bids for a piece of the four-wheel action

Hugh Hunston looks at Range

Rover's tough US-German rival

This car could upset the bandwagon that has carried Range Rover into the position as the world's most successful and desired four-wheel-drive vehicle.

Within two years, there will be a dramatically-styled rival carrying a three-pointed star on its bonnet. Mercedes has released details of its AAV, its All Activity Vehicle and the first Mercedes to be made in America. It will reach Britain in late 1997.

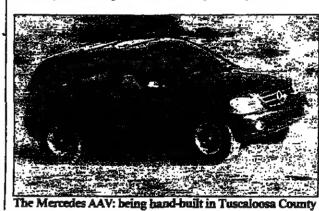
The AAV is certainly light years away from the almost military and definitely sober and underachieving G-Wagen series. Its design pedigree is transatlantic, with teams from Sindellingen in Germany and Irvine, California creating a completely new vehicle, al-though the running gear is drawn from existing component banks. The electronically controlled format will be linked to a variety of power units, from a European specification four-cylinder petrol and five-cylinder turbo-diesel to muscular V6 and V8 engines with automatic-only transmissions of-fered in the US.

Britain's Lucas Industries has helped to develop the traction-sensing electronic stasure-footed roadholding on and off the tarmac.

The first batch of prototype AAVs are being hand-built in the factory workshop at Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, where an advance guard of 250 people currently operate out of trailers on the site. The Mercedes' Alabama base is the second new German automotive outpost, following BMW's operation in Spartenburg, South Carolina.

Production is due to start next year, with an ultimate target of 65,000 vehicles a year, half of which are earmarked for "home" market consumption across North America The AAV should raise Mercedes' US volume up to 125,000 units during 1998.

Mercedes expects to put the AAV into US showrooms with a starting price of around \$35,000 (£22,000), severely undercutting the Range Rover. if the company can do the same in Europe, then the vehicle, with the image of high quality bestowed by the Mercedes badge, could give Land Rover a bit of a shaking. The UK company has enjoyed huge growth in the US with Range Rover and the Land Rover Discovery, but the AAV



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AN INVEARY 13 1996

eller.

Yes, witnesses do telephone the police if they see someone stealing your radio — and they do take it seriously

A myth that died in a car park

wo men in a light blue Cortina drive into an open air pay and display car park. They get out and approach my car and smash the passenger side front window. A passenger side from whites noise like a gunshot alerts a witness in an office overlooking the car park. The men remove the car radio and

So far, so routine. But then things happen that are not in the Hand-book of Motoring Myths. The book would have it that anyone seeing such an incident is likely to ignore it: none of my business. Reporting said incident to the police, sayeth the

book, is so much wasted time. We are led to believe that the police response is likely to be: what do you expect us to do? Thus we encourage car crime by assuming that the police won't want to know, which is exactly what the thieves hope we will do. They feed on our impotence.

My radio disappeared at 2.15 in the afternoon. At 2.20 I returned to the car and the man who had seen the thieves took the trouble to come down from his office and tell me





Barnard

Peter

What he had seen and that he had called the police.

Within five minutes, a police car arrived. The two officers could not have taken the matter more seriously if it had been a bank robbery. One went off to take a statement from the witness and the other took down my

The witness had seen only the registration letter of the car, so the chances of catching the culprits are slim. The point however is that

now conducted to feed drug habits, so the theft of car radios is often done by organised gangs to finance drug radios were not famous for following the activities of Mr Atherton and Co. What a miserable life they must lead.

THE IMPRESSION that the MoT is simply a licence to print money will be reinforced by my colleague Vaughan Freeman's report in Car 96 last week that drivers face bills of hundreds of pounds to replace worn out catalytic converters.

First question: as older cars do not have to have them, why are cats part of the MoT? Next question: if the technology is so rudimentary that a cat can be ruined by going through a puddle, why are drivers being lumbered with such delicate devices?

Cats are supposed to be good for 50,000 miles, which is a drive round the block to people who use cars for a living. Now we learn that puddles, driving over road humps too last or knocking against the end of the exhaust pipe can ruin the catalyst.

All of this is in addition to the ageold car problem, which is that if you park in long grass you are liable to go up in flames. Parking in long grass tends to be associated with illicit romantic trysts, but burning in hell as a consequence is a mite too Biblical for my liking.

The one thing we can be sure of is that nobody who bought a car equipped with a catalyst was told they would shortly be lining the pockets of garage owners as a reward for protecting the ozone layer.

LONDON

International Boat Show. Earls Coun January 14, centre, expect heavy traffic in one-way system and on the A4 Cromwell Road.

A40 Western Avenue, Acton. Major roadworks with contraflow between Hilary Road and the Northern roundabout. A406 North Circular Road, Upper Edmonton. Major roadworks continue over Lea

Valley viaduct. A406 North Circular Road, Finchley. Major roadworks continue with various restrictions between the Al and

Al000 junctions. Al2 Eastern Avenue, Wan-stead. Construction of MII

link road continues, with eastbound down to a single lane between the Redbridge roundabout and High Street. SOUTH-EAST

M4 Berkshire. Major roadworks and contraflow between junctions 6 and 8/9 cause lengthy tailbacks daily. M25 Surrey. Two sections of widening work, with lane

tween junctions 6 and 8 and unctions 9 and 10. A36 Hampshire. Repairs at Wellow Common Bridge. SOUTH-WEST

closures and contraflows be-

M4/M5 Avon. Work on the new Second Severn crossing continues, with restrictions around Almondsbury & Aust interchanges, and also on the

M5 around junction 18.
M32 Avon. Widening work continues on the link between junction 19 of the M4 and Bristol city centre. M5 Somerset. Bridge repairs

with lane closures both ways between junctions 21 and 22. A4 Wiltshire. Roadworks and temporary lights in Calne town centre at the Market Hill junction and on Sandy Lane cause regular delays.

A386 Devon. Resurfacing

work with temporary lights at Pits Cleave, near Tavistock. A389 Cornwall. Gas works with temporary lights on Dennison Road, Bodmin cause long delays.

 MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA

M6 West Midlands. Major roadworks continue between junctions 5 and 6 with lane restrictions in both directions. MI Leicestershire. Final stages of the major roadworks

tween junctions 21 and 22. works and contraflow at Lockington, between junction 24 of MI and Sawley Island.

A563 Leicestershire. Roadworks and contrailow on Lubbersthorpe Way, Leicester between the Dumbell Island and the A47 junction.

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

A515 Derbyshire. Today and tomorrow, 8am to 4pm, road closed at Aston Bridge near Ashbourne for repairs.

All Norfolk. Construction of the new Wymondham bypass continues, with lane and speed restrictions between Hethersett and Attleborough.

• NORTH MI West Yorkshire. Roadworks and contraflow at end of motorway, junction 47. M6 Cheshire. Widening work

continues between junctions 20 and 22. M6 Lancashire. Reduced to two lanes in each direction for work to the overhead gantries between junctions 28 and 30. From 8pm today until 7am nomorrow both carriageways

are completely closed for bridge work between junc-tions 28 and 29.

Central Motorway near Jesmond Road interchange. WALES

underway with lane restrictions in both directions be-

M66 Greater Manchester. Roadworks between junctions 4 and 5 with two lanes open each way. From 6am today until 8pm tomorrow northbound carriageway is closed for additional weekend work. AJ67M Typeside. From January 21 northbound lane dosures on the Newcastle

A449 & A40 Gwent. Major roadworks on Newport to Montrouth route with traffic reduced to a single lane. A48 West Glamorgan. Con-

struction work on all approaches to the Wychtree roundabout at Morriston. A483 West Glamorgan, From January 15 major roadworks and contraflow on Fabian Way, Swansea between Elba

Crescent and the Earlswood traffic lights. A550 Clwyd. Construction of a new interchange between Woodbank and Queensferry means lane restrictions and a

40mph limit SCOTLAND M8 Strathclyde. Roadworks with lane closures in both directions between junctions 26 and 27.

A749 Strathclyde. Dalmarnock Bridge in Glasgow closed southbound. A741 Strathclyde. Major re-pairs to the M8 bridge on Renfrew Road in Paisley will

cause delays. Drive, Aberdeen closed for demolition work at Wellington



NEWS IN BRIEF

EVIDENCE mounts against new lead-free, four-star petrol finding its way on to British forecourts. Tests of VSRP (valve seat recession protection) petrol in a Rover engine designed for pre-1990 cars led the manufacturer to warn motorists to continue using conventional four-star. The VSRP fuel was designed for environmentally-conscious motorists whose cars needed fourstar but who wanted to get rid of lead.

Tracked down

POLICE have cracked an international ring of car thieves thanks to the Tracker homing device. The Tracker, which beams a signal to police cars, was fitted to a left-hand-drive Jeep Grand Cherokee stolen in London. Police followed the signal and found seven vehicles in crates on the dockside at Tilbury, awaiting shipment to Nigeria. Other crates contained six other stolen cars - four Mercedes, a BMW and a Vauxhall Frontera.

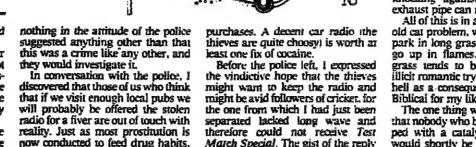
Racing Magpies

TODAY St James's Park, tomorrow the world ... Kevin Keegan's Newcastle United unveiled this week sponsorship of its

Magnic coloured sparts on The child is supporting Lister's own Magpie-coloured sports car. The club is supporting Lister's 200mph Storm GTI, which will compete this year at Daytona as well as the historic Le Mans 24-hour endurance race.

Nissan boost

NISSAN has invested another £10 million in Britain by locating its European data centre at Washington. Tyne and Wear, home of its factory which opened 10 years ago. The centre will control by computer all vehicle production from Washington, which makes the Micra and Primera cars, and Barcelona in Spain. where Nissan makes the Terrano 4x4 (as well as the Ford Maverick), Serena multi-purpose vehicle and Vanette Cargo commercial van.



Match Special. The gist of the reply was that people who went around smashing up cars and stealing

There is still a chance to take part in the journey of a lifetime on the Peking to Paris rally. Kevin Eason reports

An epic from East to West

reat anniversaries need great deeds to celebrate, and in-trepid readers of The Times are planning an epic. They will be attempting to drive from Peking to Paris next year in a re-run of the world's first motor rally.

Half the 85 entries are pre-Second World War models and include classic car owners such as Chris Dunkley and his wife, Jan, from Maidstone, Kent, who will be pitting their 1935 Bentley against the ele-ments and uncertain roads of

a dozen countries.

The Peking to Paris Rally was held for the first time in 1907, when the motor industry was barely born and cars were the end of this first century of cars, the challenge could be

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iust as testing. Readers of The Times jammed the switchboard of the rally organisers when the event was announced a year ago to book a place on one of the most charismatic and ex-

citing drives of the century.

A maximum of 15 places remain for motorists who want to drive the full length of China, climb across the roof of the world of Tibet, and from Katmandu and Nepal, in sight of Everest, race back to Europe via the Taj Mahal, Pakistan, across the Persian trails first trodden by Marco Polo through Iran, Turkey and Greece to the foot of Italy, then across the Alps to Paris.

ome of the conditions have changed little.
The route will force drivers to camp in their own tents for at least five nights through remote mountain passes in Tibet, and all of the cars will have to be robust enough to survive at least half the 12,000-mile route on 70-

octane petrol.

Apart from the Dunkleys,
Lord Selsdon is turning Bond for the event in an Aston Martin DB5, Lord Montagu of the National Motor Museum at Beautieu is taking the oldest car — a 1914 Prince Henry Vauxhall — while Sir David Steel will be in his Rover P5, one of several 3-litre Rovers, a model favoured to do particularly well. London restaurateur Mauricio Selci is entering a Citroën 2CV, probably the smallest car, and Peter and Sue Noble, of Loughton, Essex, a 3-ton 1925 Lanchester, probably the biggest. Also among the adventurers

will be the Hon Francesca Sternberg, with the only allwomen crew in the event, who has decided to take a Volvo. She says she has never driven in a rally before, but lists her credentials as having held a heavy goods licence and has driven a truck to Bulgaria. The Selection Committee had little difficulty in accepting her entry - but chided her with the comment that her choice of car was "rather boring". That might be unkind to the poor Volvo, but at least she stands a

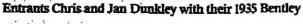
good chance of completing the trip in her trusty Swede. Most popular marque is Bentley, with 10 models taking part; Rolls-Royce is second with six, including three Phantoms and a Silver Ghost. Jaguars, Aston Martins and Triumphs will be there along with Humber Snipes, a Vauxhalf Cresta and a Peugeot 404. abilities to get to the start.

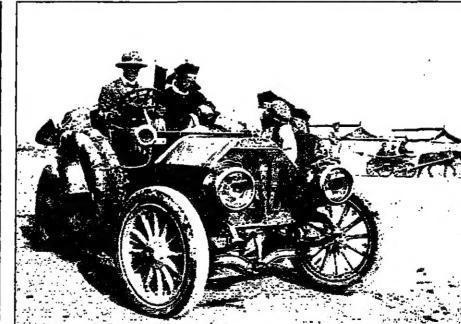
At the start of the 1907 event, Until 1907, there was only At the start of the 1907 event,



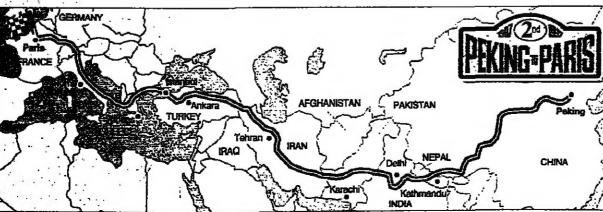
Prince Scipio Borghese's Itala during the 1907 rally; he stopped off to join "many fine ladies" at a ball in St Petersburg and still won by a week







Prince Borghese shows the Grand Lama of Tibet the machine that will move the world



the drivers had no permission to leave China, so arguments and delays at the start meant they set off when the rainy season was well under way. Slime, lots of mud, and the odd paddy field saw a difficult start with the Gobi desert and Mongolia dellating optimistic drivers of five cars who had held enough faith in their

the London to Brighton run and the odd circuit race, the red flag carried by a man in front of the car at a tame 4mph had only just been abolished in Britain and the motoring establishment considered the Peking escapade so foolhardy that no Brit bothered to enter. reckoning the entire race was doomed from the start. But once reports made it in

morse code from telegraph

an railway, eager motorists were captivated by the challenge of it all and daily rang The Times eager for news. They needn't have bothered though: in the best Fleet Street traditions, the man from the fledgling Daily Mail missed his connection to China so went instead to a communications relay station where he waited for the daily updates to

stations along the trans-Siberi-

come in. He is said to have diverted despatches destined for The Times to his own newspaper.

in a 7-litre Itala, although the prize of a bottle of champagne was no more than a token after 60 days' driving. It was not all toil though: the Prince, a wealthy and exotic Italian aristocrat, took a diversion at Moscow to drive to St Peters-

Prince Scipio Borghese won

Philip Young, the rally organiser, says that if calls to The Times are anything to go by, filling the remaining 15 places will not be much of a headache. He adds: "One thing is certain though, the hangover from the final finish prizegiving in Paris should be truly memorable, with drivers dining out on their experiences long after the dust has settled." Rally headquarters is on 01235-

burg, taking in a celebratory ball attended by "many fine ladies" then raced the 500

miles back to Moscow to

continue with the event to win

by a clear week from a Dutch

runner-up, a fairground bark-

er in a Spyker who begged and

borrowed his way along the

route, taking petrol and tyres

from other competitors. Only

one car failed to make it, a

three-wheeler Contail. The

crew was rescued, but legend

has it that the car is still where

they left it, buried beneath the sand of the Gobi desert.

In deeper space with a Shuttle

people carrier, an grown hatchback has been the subject of a lively debate since it was introduced in this country last June. But get behind the wheel and you soon realise that the answer doesn't

This versatile vehicle, developed under the project name "personal jet", fulfils all three functions and adds a touch of luxury befitting such an ambi-tious title. After a New Year test drive including country lanes covered in snow and sheet ice, patchy fog and the cloying mud left by a swift thaw, it also proved itself, on the road at least, a match for many a four-wheel-drive.

Those now tiring of the craze for trendy four-wheel-drive vehicles which rarely, if ever. venture off the roads are among Honda's target market for the Shuttle. Apart from the expensive transmission required to drive four wheels rather than two, the Shuttle offers all the advantages of such vehicles: an elevated driving position, roomy interior and adaptable load space.

The outstanding feature is handling and ride. It offers six very comfortable seats and, especially when they are all in use, a good deal more luggage space than most of its MPV competitors, yet sacrifices nothing of the engineering quality and sporty feel which are Honda's virtues. In a rapidly growing market which carmarkers are falling over themselves to get into and where various contenders have been described as "vans

You can be the proud owner of a fabulous new

Honda Shuttle, the ultimate people carrier, thanks to

an exclusive competition in The Times. The car.

which takes six passengers and is a breeze to drive.

The Times next week and send them to the address

All you have to do is collect three tokens from

on the coupon below to be entered into a free prize draw.

It goes without saying the Honda is a superb piece of

The Shuttle is this year's most covetable car. It has power

motoring machinery with safety, durability, and reliability as

standard. But it also has luxurious extras that make driving it

steering that is speed sensitive for easier parking and crisper

cornering, the driver's raised position, it has all-round

visibility, the dashboard with the feel of an executive car and

controls and instruments which are clear and easy to use.

l enclose times takens from The Times and wish to enter the draw. Post to:

The Times/Honda Shuttle Prize Draw, 134-146 Curtain Road, London EC2 SAR.

is worth more than £23,400.

a relaxing and rewarding experience.

hether the Honda with windows or "tarted up Shuttle is a minibuses", the Shuttle looks like a car, feels like a car and

> the same all-round indepentraffic" that proves so appeal-

those features that puts a lot of first-timers off these vehicles is that if you throw most people carriers at a tight ly in contact with the surface, but because of their height the sensation of rolling is accentuated enough to frighten a nervous novice. The Shuttle is a good deal lower than most of its rivals and, with its indepen-

lanes the Shuttle never provided a moment of alarm. plemented by all-round disc brakes and an anti-lock braking system as standard. A lot has been written recently about how ABS may give drivers a false sense of security and thus encourage them to

drives exactly like a car.

The smooth ride and precise handling is delivered through dent suspension layout used in Honda's cars. It provides the feel of a car-like driving position and the comfort of a saloon, but combines them with that "view over the other ing to many car drivers when they sit in a people carrier. The downside of that high driving position - and one of

corner you can induce an alarming amount of roll. It may be perfectly safe and all four wheels may remain firmdent suspension and anti-roll bars, feels much more secure. On a tight bend, even on a grotty surface, it responds like a saloon. On icy and twisting

Ride and handling are comtake unnecessary risks, but in the conditions found in middle England over the New Year there was absolutely no doubt-



ing its worth. The emphasis on safety inside the car is also strong with twin front airbags. salety-cage construction for

the main passenger cabin, side impact protection, a heavily reinforced latch for the rear tailgate and three-point seat belts throughout.

The four front seats are all "captain's chairs" finished in luxury fabric and with folddown central arm rests. There is generous adjustment and spacing between them and the whole cabin is designed as a

ENTER OUR PRIZE DRAW TO WIN A CAR WORTH £23,400

walk-through area thanks to the column-mounted gearshift lever and handbrake set close to the driver's seat.

All this is pulled along with extraordinary smoothness by a 2.2-litre, four-cylinder engine mounted transversely on a strengthened and adapted version of the front substructure from Honda's Accord saloon. This engine is a refinement of that used in the Accord for the US market. Its tuning is aimed more at delivering fuel economy and consistent torque than

although Honda is fiercely proud of its racing pedigree and, even in this economical form, the Shuttle boasts a higher top speed (114mph) and faster acceleration to 60mph (12.2 seconds) than any but the most souped-up rivals.

The Shuttle comes only with automatic transmission, a decision taken after market research concluded that a majority of customers seeking an upmarket people carrier would prefer it. It is the latest four-speed version of Honda's electronically controlled unit which includes a feature known as "Grade Logic". This prevents that irritating feeling of "hunting" between the ratios, which often happens with conventional automatics on a gradient. It works through sensors that detect the severity of the gradient and whether the car is going uphill or downhill, then relies on this

THESHUTTLE Body style: 5-door, 6-

seater, people carrier. Engine: Transversely mounted, 4-cylinder, 2156cc giving 150bhp at 5,600 rpm.

Transmission: 4speed automatic with

electronic control is Performance:

Maximum speed 114mph. 0-60mph in 12.2 seconds.

Economy: Urban cycle 22.6 mpg: constant 56mph, 35.8mpg; constant 75mph. 29.4mpg.

Equipment: Power assisted steering, antilock braking, twin airbags, central locking with built-in immobiliser, six-speaker stereo radio/cassette player, air conditioning, electric slide/tilt sunroof, electric mirrors

Insurance Group: 16. Price: £22,995 plus £450 delivery charge.

and windows.

information to select the optimum gear to avoid unneces-

sary changes.
As well as taking care of hills, this also makes town driving a relaxed affair, a vital point when you consider how many people carriers are bought with the school run in mind. Fortunately, all this gadgetry does nothing to reduce the responsiveness of the transmission if you need to floor the throttle to get round one of those dreadful "middlelane hogs" who must be the curse of our motorways. At £22,995, the Shuttle costs

more than the average people carrier, but the conclusion of a week's test in grim winter conditions must be that, especially in terms of comfort, ride and handling, it offers a lot

THE ON INSIDE STREETS THE SIDE STREETS ON THE

Thatever Honda may say about having invented a new class of vehicle, the Shuttle currently has to compete in the people carrier market, where there are now ten makers fighting over the territory which Renault pionecred a decade ago with the Espace. Many of the models on offer have seven seats rather than the Honda's six, so to load it with a family of five and their luggage seemed a fair

A New Year break in ky Oxfordshire provided an ideal opportunity. One of the major criticisms of people carriers is that, despite all the blurb about versatility and load carrying, if you want to use all the seats you are not left with much luggage room and, even if you take one sest out of a seven-seater, there is not sufficient space for six sets of luggage. We needed five seats, so would removing one from the Shuttle's middie row leave enough space for the piles and piles we wanted to transport?

travel with the kitchen sink — it just seems like it — but on this occasion we did want to take ator, being uncertain whether in sub-zero temperatures the heating in our holiday home would meet the demands of a two-year-old daughter who seemed to have picked up every bug

going this winter. We also wanted to carry a toboggan to keep two older children amused, piles of extra bedding (not needed in the end, but very reassuring to pack in the shivering cold), suitcases bursting with anoraks, sweaters an thermals, bags of wellies for all those healthy country walks, several boxes and bags of Christmas leftovers, a few late gifts . . . and a high chair and a baby buggy and a load of toys to keep the tittle one amused and, of course, a number of bulky presents from which the older children could not

bear to be parted so soon after Christmas. The first pleasant surprise was the ease with which one of the middle seats was removed, a simple matter of releasing a couple of clips at the rear and then pushing it forward. (I'd tried to remove a seat from one of the Shuttle's rivals a few weeks before and given up - with a couple of broken fungernails — after several minutes of struggle.)

The seat was a bulky but not heavy load to lug back into the house, but, because of the generous space between the two middle seats and the legroom in the rear. vacated by the middle scat



Sitting pretty: shuffle the seats to suit your situation

the floor area opened up in this way was impressive and because of the wide-opening rear door filling it up was no

ne of the muchpublicised advan-tages of the Shuttle is the ease with which the rear bench seat folds into a floor well to provide an almost flat space for large loads. But one of its lesspublicised virtues is that, with the rear seat upright, that large floor well (a space taken up by the spare wheel in many vehicles) is available for luggage.

In went the radiator and the high chair and the buggy and several bags and a suitcase and the toys...for a moment i wondered whether I'd wasted my time removing the middle seat. But the bags and boxes and cases kept pouring out of the house. So in the space

we stacked the biggest suitcase, the boxes of food, the toboggan, the extra bedding and all those irritatingly "useful" bits and bobs that we had left off the first list or discovered in some cranny

as we packed. Then we all climbed in and settled down for a journey in appalling wea-ther conditions. Despite the load, there was plenty of space to spread out; the little one sat snugly in her child seat in the rear while her big sister sprawled across the rest of the bench and fell fast

asleep. Her nine-year-old brother was the only one who stayed awake throughout the trip, sitting in the remaining middle seat issuing a series of orders in unintelligible Startrek language as we headed up the M40 through the snow. After all, he explained, it was a "captain's seat" and we were in a space Long dela drive lear

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Which retional daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less) during the week? THE TIMES Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (24 copies a month)?

Win a Honda Shuttle

حكذا من الأصل

It is remarkably adaptable so whether you are a

parent who has to pile in all the family and their

paraphernalia or have the sort of hobby which

requires you to carry around a lot of equipment, this

car will easily fulfil all your requirements. Plus, its overall height is little more than that of an estate car so you can reach the roof comfortably.

There is a two year unlimited mileage warranty, a six year

If you miss The Times one day next week, you can request

one token by writing to: Honda Token Request, PO Box 490.

For further details on the new Shuttle and your nearest

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London El 9DW before Tuesday, January 23.